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BOMBAY—1936-37

A Review of the Administration of the Presidency

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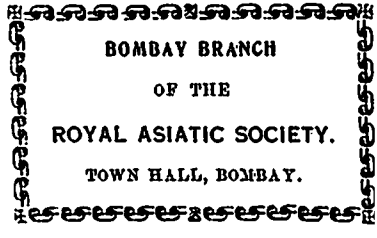

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BOMBAY—1936-37

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INTRODUCTION

The Administration Report for 1936-37 is on the same lines as last year. It is divided into two parts :—

Part I is a general summary of the year's work.

Part II deals with the work and events of the year under review and is preceded, where necessary, by a note explaining the history and functions of the Department of Government whose work is reviewed and its place in the administration.

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BOMBAY—1936-37

PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY

PREPARATIONS for the Elections under the new Constitution and the organising of election campaigns were the feature of the political history of the year under review. The Congress having decided to contest the elections with the principal object, as set out in the Party's election manifesto, of combating the new Act and seeking to end it, prepared for a country-wide campaign, directed in the first instance to ensuring as complete an electoral roll as possible. The other parties were less active and the effectiveness of non-Brahmin preparations was affected by internal dissensions. After exhaustive negotiations with the Congress Party, the Democratic Swaraj Party decided to contest the elections independently. The Muslim League formed a Parliamentary Board representing the various districts; while the formation of a new political party to be called the Independent Labour Party was announced by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the nucleus of the Party to be formed by the representatives of the Scheduled Castes in the Bombay Legislative Assembly. Prominent Congress leaders made election tours of the Province, particularly in Maharashtra, where the Democratic Swaraj Party was actively opposing Congress. In Bombay City certain labour interests carried on intensive propaganda in support of the labour candidate put up by the All-India Trade Union Congress. Voting in all Constituencies for the Upper and Lower Houses was completed on the 18th February and resulted in Congress becoming the predominant Party in both Houses and, while not securing absolute majorities, there was no doubt that the Party could command the majority of votes on any issue likely to come before the Legislatures.

The elections having taken place, the question of office acceptance by Congress formed the principal topic of political discussion. This was favoured by a majority of the Provincial Congress Committees and Mr. B. G. Kher was elected Leader of the Party. Mr. Kher was invited by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay to assist in forming a Ministry but, as His Excellency could not give the assurances required by the All-India Congress Committee, Mr. Kher expressed his inability to form a Ministry. Sir Ali Mahomed Khan Dehlavi, Leader of the Muslim League Party, also declined the invitation, but Sir Dhunjishah B. Cooper, Revenue and Finance Member in the last Executive Council, who had been elected as an Independent by the Satara North Constituency, accepted His Excellency's invitation and His Excellency, after consultation with Sir Dhunjishah B. Cooper, appointed the following gentlemen to form a Council of Ministers :—

Sir Dhunjishah B. Cooper—Home and General Minister ;

Sir S. T. Kambli, a non-Brahmin and Member of the last Ministry—Minister for Education ;

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, Leader of the Democratic Swaraj Party—Revenue and Finance Minister ;

Mr. Hoosenally M. Rahimtoola, President of the last Legislative Council—Minister for Local Self-Government.

This Ministry took office at the end of the year under review.

The Fiftieth Session of the Indian National Congress was held in the Bombay Province at Faizpur in the East Khandesh district. It was the first time that the session had been held in the heart of the country-side and it attracted an enormous number of spectators and created various problems as regards water supply, sanitation and transport.

During the year there were unfortunately two serious outbreaks of communal trouble, one in Poona city and the other in Bombay city, the principal cause in each case being music in or near temples situated near mosques. In Poona the clash between the parties occurred on April 24 and spread

from the vicinity of the temple to other parts of the city. The troops had to be called out and the situation was brought under control before dark. No casualties were caused by the action of the Police or Military and no shots were fired, but 29 police and 125 citizens were injured, of whom three of the latter died.

In Bombay city, however, the disturbance was more severe and more prolonged, lasting practically from 15th October until the beginning of December. The construction by the Bombay Municipality of a Sabha Mandap for the Maruti temple adjoining a mosque at Byculla was the immediate cause of the trouble. The old mandap having been demolished, the site was acquired for road widening in 1928 and the authorities had undertaken to construct a new mandap on the southern side of the temple away from the mosque. The Muhammadans protested that a mandap had never existed and argued that the proposed construction would result in music interfering with the prayers in the mosque. After long discussions, it was decided by the Corporation that the building must be constructed and, on the eve of the commencement of the work, Government issued a press note explaining why they were unable to intervene in the matter but, at the same time, pointing out that peace and order would be strictly maintained. Work started on October 15 under a strong police guard. About mid-day stones were showered on the guard and the workmen, and shortly afterwards assaults and stone throwing took place in various parts of the city, continuing till late in the night over a wide area. The next day was calm but on the third day rioting broke out again and increased in violence, dying away thereafter until by the first of November the situation appeared to have returned to normal. Work on the mandap was resumed on October 20. On November 2, however, trouble blazed up again and was not entirely subdued until December 7. Every effort was made to minimise the trouble and elaborate preparations were made from the commencement. Military patrols in disturbed areas were organised, bad characters rounded up and a curfew established, while strong action was taken against individuals, and newspapers were in certain cases

warned against publishing sensational accounts of the disturbances or giving a communal colour to reports and, in others, prohibited from publishing news about assaults or the Sabha Mandap. As is usual with communal disturbances in Bombay City, most of the casualties were caused by isolated assaults and stabbings, and clashes between large parties were comparatively few. Altogether 94 persons were killed and 632 injured and 2,601 arrests were made, 566 for active participation in rioting, looting, arson, etc., the remainder in pursuance of the preventive measures adopted by the police. The police opened fire on 40 occasions but only 148 rounds were fired and of these 140 were revolver shots fired by officers. Casualties as the result of police firing were 21. The striking feature of these disturbances was the complete absence of trouble in the mill area, where the mill hands kept aloof from the disturbances. The inference drawn by the authorities from the course of these disturbances was that there was but little religious feeling behind them and that they were largely caused and continued by the lowest criminal classes on either side.

The Constitutional crisis which occurred in Great Britain in December 1936 attracted much attention and the abdication of His Majesty King Edward evoked widespread regret.

Finance.—As Sind was separated from the Bombay Presidency the closing balance of 1935-36 was apportioned between Bombay and Sind under the Government of India (Constitution of Sind) Order, 1936. The closing balance to the share of Bombay came to about Rs. 1½ crores of which the free balance was Rs. 18 lakhs.

The receipts in the revenue section amounted to Rs. 1,239·8 lakhs during the year, while the expenditure charged to revenue was Rs. 1,199·4 lakhs, resulting in a revenue surplus of Rs. 40·4 lakhs. As compared with 1935-36 land revenue showed a decrease of Rs. 30 lakhs, while the irrigation heads showed an increase of Rs. 1½ lakhs. The excise revenue decreased by Rs. 8 lakhs and the forest revenue by Rs. 4¼ lakhs. On the other hand, the revenue under stamps increased by Rs. 4¼ lakhs, the

scheduled taxes by Rs. 2½ lakhs and miscellaneous by Rs. 2½ lakhs. The revenue under XXV-Industries showed an increase of Rs. 3 lakhs due to larger receipts under the Bombay Weights and Measures Act, while under XXVI-Miscellaneous Departments it increased by Rs. 27¾ lakhs due to receipts under the Bombay Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1935. As compared with 1935–36 there was an increase of Rs. 2¼ lakhs under " Direct demands on revenue ". The expenditure under " Civil Administration " also increased by Rs. 31 lakhs, Rs. 17½ lakhs of which were due to expenditure in connection with the administration of the Bombay Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, and transfer of Rs. 9 lakhs to the Provincial Road Fund. No amounts were borrowed from the Government of India, the capital expenditure during the year being met from balances.

Trade and Commerce.—Steady progress was made during the year under report towards a return to general trading conditions. Recovery was most marked in exports which increased considerably due to greater industrial activities in foreign manufacturing countries. There was a general rise in the prices of agricultural commodities whereas the prices of goods of Indian manufacture declined. With the repealing of sanctions against Italy imports from that country gradually revived and the figures for the closing months of the year indicated that the trade was assuming normal proportions. The civil war in Spain had an adverse effect on the trade with that country which was most noticeable in the reduction of her demand of Indian raw cotton.

The aggregate value of the foreign trade of the Presidency amounted to Rs. 136·82 crores as compared with Rs. 139·26 crores in 1935–36, the value of merchandise being Rs. 94·36 crores as against Rs. 88·25 crores and of treasure Rs. 42·46 crores as against Rs. 51·01 crores.

The total value of imports of private foreign merchandise into the Presidency of Bombay was Rs. 49·33 crores, a fall of Rs. 5·2 crores as compared with the previous year while private treasure (gold and silver) was valued at Rs. 12·98 crores against

Rs. 4·8 crores. The principal articles contributing to the fall in merchandise were metals and ores, raw cotton, sugar, cotton manufactures, machinery and millwork, oils, cotton twist and yarn, unspecified postal articles, silk manufactures and dyeing and tanning substances.

The total value of exports of foreign private merchandise including re-exports rose from Rs. 33·11 crores to Rs. 44·41 crores but that of treasure (gold and silver) fell from Rs. 40·57 crores to Rs. 29·27 crores, the value of gold exported being Rs. 29·25 crores as compared with Rs. 38·26 crores in the previous year. The increase in exports of merchandise was chiefly attributable to larger shipments of raw cotton, seeds, unspecified postal articles, hides and skins (foreign) and cotton manufactures.

The total value of the private coasting trade of the Presidency excluding treasure increased from Rs. 47·84 crores to Rs. 50·16 crores, both imports and exports sharing in the increase. Imports rose from Rs. 21·86 crores to Rs. 23·2 crores owing mainly to larger arrivals of raw cotton from Kathiawar, Goa and British ports within the province and rice from Burma. Imports of foreign sugar, however, were less by Rs. 39·91 lakhs. Exports increased from Rs. 25·98 crores to Rs. 26·96 crores chiefly as a result of larger shipments of cotton piecegoods to Burma and Sind, of raw cotton to British ports within the province and of carriages and cars, etc., to Bengal.

The British Empire accounted for 37·62 per cent. of the total foreign private trade. The share of the United Kingdom increased from 24·1 to 26·25 per cent. and that of Japan from 25·85 to 29·04 per cent. The shares of Germany and the United States of America however decreased from 8·36 to 7·71 per cent. and from 6·64 to 5·13 per cent. respectively.

The total value of the coasting trade of subordinate ports rose from Rs. 6·18 crores to Rs. 6·43 crores. Exports increased from Rs. 2·54 crores to Rs. 2·82 crores but imports decreased from Rs. 3·64 crores to Rs. 3·61 crores.

The total number of vessels which entered the Port of Bombay was 706 of 3,159,555 tons as against 700 of 3,156,378 tons.

Outward clearances numbered 598 of 2,840,541 tons against 624 of 2,897,157 tons.

The amounts of import and export duty, excluding the various cesses, collected during the year were Rs. 1,525·95 lakhs and Rs. 1·35 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1,576·42 lakhs and Rs. 1·61 lakhs respectively in the preceding year. The ratio of true expenditure to revenue at the Bombay Custom House during the year was 1·17 per cent. as against 1·05 per cent. in the previous year.

Land Customs.—The total receipts at the Land Customs stations on the Frontiers of Goa and Daman amounted to Rs. 7·09 lakhs as against Rs. 19·46 lakhs in the previous year, the large drop in the receipts being due to a fall in the imports of Java sugar and foreign kerosene oil. The imports of cocoanuts, betelnuts, copra, and empty kerosene oil tins also showed a decrease, while imports of salt, coal, machinery and parts showed an increase. The export duty realised during the year was Rs. 13,752 as against Rs. 11,675 in the preceding year, the increase being due to larger exports of rice and paddy to Goa. The receipts at the various Customs Houses on the Viramgam Frontier amounted to Rs. 20·26 lakhs as against Rs. 19·14 lakhs in the preceding year. The collections on the Cambay Frontier amounted to Rs. 5,669 as against Rs. 3,304 in the year before, the increase being due to larger imports of wet dates.

Agriculture.—The agricultural season of 1936–37 may, on the whole, be considered to have been fair over a large part of the Presidency. The rainfall received during the year was, in general, unevenly distributed, both as regards periodicity of fall and area and it was characterised by long breaks which had an adverse effect on agricultural operations and crops. In July and August the rainfall was markedly deficient over almost all the Presidency and caused considerable anxiety in the early part of the season. A long period of dry climatic conditions prevailed at this time and failure of *kharif* crops seemed imminent in parts of North Cujarat and in the eastern districts of the South Deccan and the Karnatak. In other parts of the

Presidency the situation was not so acute but was by no means satisfactory. Very opportune and welcome rains in September considerably alleviated the position of the agriculturists especially in the drought affected tracts and the cultivators who had suffered the complete or partial failure of their *kharif* crops, became more hopeful of a good *rabi* cropping season. The dry conditions, which prevailed in October, somewhat falsified these hopes and a second acute situation ensued which, however, was somewhat relieved by substantial rainfall in the month of November. Owing to this uncertain condition of rainfall, combined with other adverse factors such as the prevalence of dry easterly winds, low temperature and heavy attack of insect pests and plant diseases in many tracts, the yields of crops were considerably reduced in a number of districts in which scarcity conditions prevailed necessitating measures for the relief of the agriculturists. Accordingly the season under review may be characterised as disappointing over large tracts of the presidency and it was only the rainfall received in September and November which saved many districts from almost complete failure of the crops. The prolonged and unfortunate breaks in the rains resulted in considerable scarcity of fodder, grazing and drinking water in numerous centres in North Gujarat, East Deccan and East Karnatak districts.

The gross cropped area decreased by 202,000 acres from 29,373,000 acres in 1935-36 to 29,171,000 acres in 1936-37, while the net cropped area showed a decline by 386,000 acres from 28,540,000 acres to 28,154,000 acres. The twice cropped area, however, showed an appreciable expansion of 184,000 acres, having increased from 833,000 acres to 1,017,000 acres. About 121,000 acres of forest lands were given out for temporary cultivation while about 109,000 acres of culturable waste were similarly dealt with. The area under food crops, i.e., cereals and pulses, sugarcane, and fruits and vegetables, showed a rise of 71,000 acres or 0·3 per cent. over the previous year. The area under non-food crops, which include cotton, tobacco and oilseeds, showed a decrease of 273,000 acres or 3·0 per cent. below the previous year.

Department of Agriculture.—During the year under report, the district activities of the Agricultural Department in connection with demonstration and propaganda, seed distribution, land improvement, crop protection etc., continued to develop, in almost every district of the Presidency. A notable feature of this work was the increased interest taken by the cultivators in land improvement schemes whereby, by simple but scientific methods of bunding and the construction of field embankments, cultivated lands were protected from permanent damage and loss by soil erosion. The shortage of rainfall, which prevailed over large areas of the Presidency during the year under report, has focussed attention on the work which is being done to evolve suitable dry farming methods of cultivation at Sholapur and Bijapur. At these places the application of the results of the dry farming research work to ordinary cultivation increased yields of grain and fodder up to approximately 150 per cent. over the local cultivators' outturns. The organization of gun-clubs for the protection of cultivators' crops from damage by wild animals made great progress, especially in the Southern Division where over 85,000 acres of crops were protected by these organizations. The district staff of the Department has recently been concentrating upon the improvement of village manure supplies by the introduction of better methods of conservation and of compost manufacture. This work has now been taken up by the public in several areas. On the marketing side, grade specifications for grapes, tobacco, hides and skins and oranges were notified during the year and an experimental scheme for the grading of Nasik grapes was started under the supervision of an expert grader lent by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India.

The expenditure of the Agricultural Department during the year under report was Rs. 11·43 lakhs as against Rs. 11·70 lakhs in the preceding year. The receipts were Rs. 2·08 lakhs as compared with Rs. 2·07 lakhs in the previous year. Grants were also received from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the Indian Central Cotton Committee, and the Sir Sassoon David Trust Fund.

Public Instruction.—The total number of educational institutions increased by 337 to 14,609 and the number of pupils in them by 45,412 to 1,335,889. Out of a total of 21,668 towns and villages, 8,975 possessed schools, the average area served by each town or village with a school being 8·6 square miles. The percentage of male scholars under instruction in all kinds of institutions to the total male population was 10·86 as against 10·59 in the preceding year. The corresponding percentages of female scholars to the female population were 3·79 and 3·56 respectively. The total number of pupils under instruction in recognised institutions increased by 46,718 to 1,299,569. Of these, 1,029,064 were Hindus, 168,320 Muhammadans, 41,318 Indian Christians, 17,251 Parsis and 5,158 Europeans and Anglo-Indians. The rest numbered 38,458 and comprised 35,048 Jains, 450 Sikhs, and 2,960 Jews and others. The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to Rs. 376·02 lakhs of which 41 per cent. was met from Government funds and the rest from Board funds, fees and other sources. Primary schools absorbed over Rs. 177 lakhs, exclusive of expenditure on inspection, construction and repairs.

The number of students in the 14 Arts colleges (excluding the University School of Economics and Sociology) decreased by 225 to 9,864 of whom 1,048 were women as against 983 in the preceding year. The total expenditure on all the Arts colleges was about Rs. 22·3 lakhs. The total number of students in Professional colleges increased by 162 to 3,347 of whom 1,036 were studying Law, 1,244 Medicine, 216 Engineering, 195 Agriculture, 510 Commerce, 45 Chemical Technology and 101 were reading for the B.T. degree. The number of secondary schools increased by 24 to 639 and the pupils in them by 2,440 to 127,087.

The expenditure on secondary schools increased by Rs. 3·5 lakhs to Rs. 82·9 lakhs. The number of primary schools for boys increased by 255 to 11,423 and the number of pupils in them by 33,898 to 964,082. The number of primary schools for girls also increased by 15 to 1,478 and the number of pupils (boys and girls) in them by 7,816 to 176,217. The total number

of girls under instruction in primary schools for boys and girls was 287,061, an increase of 16,530. The total direct expenditure on primary schools was Rs. 177·3 lakhs as against Rs. 172·9 lakhs in 1935–36. The total number of Muhammadans under instruction in recognised institutions increased by 2,883 to 168,320, of whom 45,263 were girls.

Law and Justice.—During the period between 1st April 1936 and the 31st March 1937 seventeen Acts were passed by the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bombay, and, having received the assents of Their Excellencies the Governor and the Governor-General, became law. The most important of them were the Bombay Famine Relief Fund Act which conserved the balance to the credit of the Famine Relief Fund and established a new statutory fund to take the place of the old one which ceased to exist as a statutory fund, as the Devolution Rules ceased to operate; the Bombay Opium Smoking Act, which was enacted to discourage the opium smoking habit by the suppression of opium smoking dens; the Bombay Port Trust (Amendment) Act which makes a specific provision that the debentures or any other loans raised by the Trustees shall be a first charge on the income and property of the Trustees; the City of Bombay Municipal (Amendment) Act and the Bombay Local Boards (Amendment) Act which brought the Municipal and local board franchise respectively in line with the franchise of the Bombay Legislative Assembly; the Bombay District Municipal (Amendment) Act, the Bombay Local Boards (Amendment) Act and the Bombay Municipal Boroughs (Amendment) Act which laid down that all election petitions in respect of the same election should be heard together by the same judge and that judges should not permit election petitions once made to be compromised or withdrawn or any pleading therein altered or amended unless such alteration or amendment was *bona fide* and not collusive; the Bombay Weights and Measures (Amendment) Act which legalised the charging of fees for verification, reverification and adjustment of weights or measures or weighing or measuring instruments by all local bodies directed to keep secondary or working standards; the Parsi Public Trusts Registration Act which

made compulsory the registration of important Parsi trusts as also the auditing of their accounts and their periodic submission to the Registrar. Most of the other Acts were amendments to existing statutes designed to remove anomalies or to remedy defects.

During 1935 the total number of original suits decided by the High Court was 2,617 and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,900. In the mofussil civil courts the number of original suits was 152,785, a decrease of 5,955 over the previous year, the largest number being in Poona. The total number of suits for disposal was 230,480, of which 157,345 were decided. The Bombay Small Causes Court dealt with 38,733 suits and left 6,276 pending.

On the criminal side there were 290,687 offences reported during the year—an increase of 863 over those of the previous year—and 283,690 cases were found true. Of these 280 were murders of which 163 ended in conviction. The number of cases brought to trial before the Courts of the Presidency Magistrates, including Hónorary Magistrates, was 161,848. The Magistrates disposed of 155,923 cases, leaving 6,037 pending. The number of persons under trial before the mofussil tribunals was 193,889. Of these the cases of 1,000 were committed to the Sessions or referred to higher authorities, and 174,924 were finally disposed of. The Court of Sessions in the mofussil dealt with 2,096 persons, while the High Court dealt with 105 cases at its Sessions.

Police and Crime.—The year 1936 was normal throughout and free from the anxieties resulting from serious political movements or industrial strife. As regards crime generally, cognizable crime reported during 1936 tallied with the figures of 1935, being thus lower than in previous years. There was a decrease in serious crime as also in the number of cases pending with the police. The control and restraint exercised by the Criminal Tribes Act was one of the reasons for the decrease.

The total number of cognizable and non-cognizable offences reported during the year was 142,925 as against 143,789 in 1935.

The incidence of total crime under the Indian Penal Code for the Presidency, including Railways, works out to 1·09 per thousand of population in 1936, a very slight reduction compared to the preceding three years, viz., 1·10. Serious crime in 1936 has remained stationary at ·78 as in the year before. Bombay Suburban and Ratnagiri retain their reputation of being respectively the most and least criminal districts in the Presidency, their respective incidences of crime for 1936 being 3·98 and ·27 per 1,000 of population. The total number of undetected cases during the year under report was 5,989 as against 6,175 in 1935.

Out of 15,231 police cases decided by trial, 14,423 ended in conviction as against 14,308 out of 15,108 cases tried in 1935. The percentage of cases convicted to those tried was 94·69 as against 94·70 in 1935 under all classes and 91·30 against 91·38 respectively under the Indian Penal Code. The value of property stolen in 1936 in connection with cognizable cases was Rs. 7·74 lakhs against Rs. 7·22 lakhs in 1935, the corresponding figures of the value of property recovered being respectively Rs. 2·49 lakhs and Rs. 2·27 lakhs.

There were 54 officers of and above the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police. The sanctioned strength of officers below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and men stood at 725 and 17,508 respectively as against 717 and 17,576 in the year before. The cost of the police, including the Railway police and the clerical establishment, for the financial year 1936–37 in the Presidency was Rs. 98·5 lakhs as against Rs. 99 lakhs in 1935–36. The proportion of police to area, population and cognizable crime investigated, was one policeman to 4·51 square miles, 2·30 Railway miles, 920 persons and 1·37 cognizable crime investigated.

Bombay City Police.—During the year 1936 the political situation in the city was quiet and industrial strikes were fewer than in the preceding year largely on account of the efforts of the

Labour Officer appointed by Government. The outstanding event of the year was the communal riot between Hindus and Muhammadans over the Byculla Sabha-Mandap. The riot lasted intermittently for nearly two months, the casualties being 94 dead and 632 injured. Cognizable and non-cognizable cases, reported during the year numbered 208,173 against 207,205 in 1935. The total number of cognizable cases of all classes reported to the police during the year was 137,451 against 140,162 in 1935. The total Indian Penal Code crime is the lowest since 1911 if 492 cases connected with the riots are excluded, while the total crime for the year fell slightly below the level of 1910. During the year 1936, 137,074 cases of all classes were classified as true against 139,642 in the previous year. Of these, 126,473 resulted in conviction, giving a percentage of 92·27 as compared with 94·01 in 1935. The total number of cases of all classes remaining undetected at the end of the year was 3,334 against 3,372 in 1935. The percentage of non-detection works out to 2·39 against 2·37 in 1935. Including 1,370 cases pending from the preceding year the offences under the special and local laws dealt with by the police numbered 132,023 against 134,185 in 1935. Of these, 124,168 ended in conviction. The total value of property alleged to have been stolen in cognizable cases reported to the police amounted to Rs. 8·23 lakhs as compared with Rs. 6·81 lakhs in 1935. The total value of property recovered was Rs. 1·27 lakhs which gives a recovery percentage of 15·42 as compared with 27·40 in 1935. The communal riots which broke out in the year under report were responsible for this large increase.

The total permanent strength of the Force at the close of the year stood at 4,565 and the cost was nearly Rs. 44 lakhs.

Public Health.—There was a decrease in the death-rate of the Presidency (27·73) during the year as compared with the figure for 1935 (28·45). The quinquennial average was 26·97. The cholera incidence was almost equal in both the years, 11,304 deaths in 1936 and 11,191 in 1935. Small-pox was comparatively mild, recording 4,320 deaths against 13,405 in 1935. The year was also noteworthy for the record low number of

plague deaths reported in the Presidency (578 against 2,453 in 1935). As compared with the previous year small-pox showed a decrease of 9,085 deaths, plague 1,875, fevers 14,889 and injuries 86. A rise was recorded in cholera of 113 deaths, dysentery and diarrhoea 4,886, respiratory diseases 4,505 and other causes 3,439. Looking to the total number of deaths as well as to the mortality from the three main causes, viz. small-pox, plague and fevers, the year can be considered more healthy than 1935. The rates, based on estimated population, also showed an improvement. The birth-rate was higher and the death-rate lower than in 1935 being 38·77 and 25·97 in 1936 against 38·51 and 26·99 in 1935 respectively. A comparison of the figures of deaths under several heads with the mean of the previous five years 1931 to 1935 shows that there was a decrease in the mortality rates under small-pox, plague and fevers but cholera, dysentery and diarrhoea, respiratory diseases and other causes recorded a rise.

Other features of the year were an excess of births over deaths of 245,053 and a decrease in the infant mortality rate from 169·33 to 166·08 in spite of a higher birth-rate during the year.

Among the civil Indian population of 17,932,368 according to the 1931 census 742,331 births were registered showing an increase of 14,185 over the figure for 1935. The birth-rate for the year for the Presidency was 41·40 against 40·61 in the previous year. The birth-rate on the estimated population for the year works out to 38·77. The proportion of male to female births was 106·04 to 100 Still-births numbered 12,515 as against 12,821 in the previous year. The year under report shows a decrease in recorded deaths as compared with the previous year. The total number of deaths registered was 497,278 in 1936; 510,270 in 1935, the quinquennial average being 483,720. The proportion of male to female deaths was 106·06 to 100. The recorded death-rate for the Presidency worked out to 27·73 per mille; it was 28·45 in 1935, the quinquennial mean being 26·97. The death-rate, calculated on the estimated population for the year, was 25·96.

In Bombay City the birth and death rates were 30·65 and 25·59 respectively. The infant mortality rate was 250 per 1,000 registered births as compared with 247 in 1935.

Salt.—The salt with which the Bombay Presidency Salt Department has to deal is the Baragra or Runn salt of Cutch, sea salt made within the Presidency, and imported salt, mostly from Goa. The gross revenue during the year was Rs. 190·02 lakhs against Rs. 178·86 lakhs during the preceding year, due mainly to larger removals of salt. The total expenditure, including refunds, amounted to Rs. 23·54 lakhs against Rs. 32·88 lakhs during the previous year, the decrease being mainly due to the adoption of a revised accounting procedure according to which 11/20th of the total expenditure of the whole Department was debited to "Customs" and credited to "Salt".

The quantity of salt consumed in the Presidency was 40·88 lakhs maunds against 37·68 lakhs maunds in the previous year, showing an average consumption of 13·8 lbs. as against 12·7. Nearly 6,600 maunds of salt were issued free of duty for use as manure as compared with 7,400 maunds during the previous year. The issue price of denatured salt remained unchanged at eight annas per maund.

The quantity of salt issued, free of duty, to various industrial concerns amounted 1·01 lakhs maunds. The concession of private manufacture of salt was more extensively taken advantage of in the Ratnagiri and Kanara Districts and the number of pans was 838 as against 683 in the preceding year.

Excise.—The gross excise revenue decreased from Rs. 329·51 lakhs to Rs. 322·67 lakhs, a decrease of Rs. 6·84 lakhs, but the whole of this decrease was not real. There was an apparent decrease of Rs. 2·78 lakhs in the foreign liquor license fees in Bombay because the fees recoverable in 1934–35 were actually recovered and credited in 1935–36 owing to the introduction of the monthly instalment system. The real decrease in gross revenue was about Rs. 4·68 lakhs only, the items mainly responsible for the decrease being still head duty, opium, toddy, foreign liquor, hemp drugs and the Nasik Distillery, partly

counterbalanced by increases under tree-tax and country spirit license fees in Bombay. The adverse economic conditions which continued during the year were reflected in the decreased consumption of foreign spirits, opium and hemp drugs and in an increase in the consumption of foreign fermented liquors and in the tapping of more toddy producing trees. The consumption of country spirit would have also declined but for the increased consumption of licit and decreased consumption of illicit liquor. The manufacture of denatured spirit at the Nasik Distillery was discontinued during the year. The expenditure for the year exclusive of compensation paid to Indian States, the Bombay Municipality and the District Local Boards was Rs. 32·93 lakhs against Rs. 30·64 lakhs in the previous year. The revenue under country spirit amounted to Rs. 155·27 lakhs as compared with Rs. 158·07 lakhs in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 2·80 lakhs. The total ration fixed for 1936–37 was 17·69 lakhs as against 17·65 lakhs proof gallons in the previous year. The total consumption of country spirit increased from 1,040,197 to 1,040,272 proof gallons. The revenue under toddy amounted to Rs. 71 lakhs during 1936–37 as against Rs. 71·15 lakhs in the previous year. The quantity of toddy sold during the year was 126·22 lakhs gallons as against 128·29 lakhs gallons sold during the previous year. The total revenue under " Foreign liquor " showed a decrease of Rs. 3·02 lakhs from Rs. 33·95 lakhs in 1935–36 to Rs. 30·93 lakhs in 1936–37, most of the decrease being only apparent. The revenue from intoxicating drugs amounted to Rs. 18·12 lakhs as against Rs. 18·07 lakhs in the previous year. The consumption in seers of ganja, bhang and charas was 25,478, 8,107 and 6,238, respectively, during the year, as against 25,722, 8,485 and 6,947, respectively, in the preceding year. The opium revenue was Rs. 19·91 lakhs as against Rs. 20·59 lakhs in the previous year, the decrease being due to fall in consumption. The net profit to Government from the issue of opium from the depots was Rs. 8·46 lakhs as against Rs. 8·79 lakhs in the previous year. The sales of opium were 15,104 seers against 16,071 seers in the previous year. The total number of cases detected was 7,806

against 10,021 in the preceding year. Of these 7,327 related to liquor, 468 to hemp drugs and 11 to cocaine.

Taxes on Income.—The improvement in trade which set in in the year 1934–35 continued during the year 1935–36, on the profits and gains of which income-tax and super-tax for the year 1936–37 were assessed.

The total income assessed to income-tax was Rs. 44 crores as against Rs. 40½ crores (excluding lower incomes which are now exempted from the tax) in the preceding year. In spite of the reduction in the rate of surcharge from 1/6th to 1/12th and the abolition of the tax on lower incomes, the total income-tax demand, including surcharge, was Rs. 4·35 crores as against Rs. 4·55 crores in the preceding year. The total net income-tax collections amounted to Rs. 3·54 crores as against Rs. 3·73 crores in the previous year. The total number of assessees at the end of the year was 141,376, of whom 81,774 were in Bombay City. The total income from salaries assessed to tax was about Rs. 1,375 lakhs, while the net revenue collected was about Rs. 57 lakhs. Persons with an income of Rs. 50,000 and over numbered 533, paying about Rs. 33 lakhs income-tax on an assessed income of about Rs. 252 lakhs.

The total super-tax demand for the year was Rs. 95·84 lakhs as against Rs. 87·17 lakhs for the preceding year, while the collections were Rs. 83·79 lakhs as against Rs. 81·66 lakhs. The number of companies paying super-tax on incomes of over Rs. 5 lakhs was 39, the amount of tax paid by them being about Rs. 39 lakhs.

Stamps.—The total revenue realised from the sale of judicial and non-judicial stamps amounted to Rs. 148·37 lakhs as against Rs. 144·71 lakhs in the preceding year. Out of the amount received during the year Rs. 73·55 lakhs were collected under the Stamp Act and Rs. 74·82 lakhs under the Court Fees Act. The total charges amounted to Rs. 3·51 lakhs as against Rs. 3·74 lakhs in the preceding year. Bombay City was responsible for a collection of Rs. 33·14 lakhs on account of judicial stamps as against Rs. 24·60 lakhs in the previous year.

Forests.—The financial results of the year were not as good as those of the previous year. The depression in the timber market in the Northern Circle as evidenced by the large quantities of timber held in stock at some bunder depots in the North Thana Division, low prices for charcoal in Bombay, the non-disposal of sandalwood at the Dharwar depot before the close of the year and the famine conditions prevailing in some parts of the Presidency during the year, were mostly responsible for a decline in revenue. The high prices ruling in the market for teak timber during 1935–36 were of a speculative character owing to the unsettled international situation. During the year this speculative element disappeared but the market for teak remained firm and on a higher level than that of the year 1934–35. Sandalwood prices, however, continued to be unsatisfactory.

The gross revenue of the year decreased from Rs. 52·10 lakhs to Rs. 47·72 lakhs and the surplus from Rs. 24·24 lakhs to Rs. 19·65 lakhs, all the circles contributing thereto. The expenditure on the other hand increased from Rs. 27·86 lakhs to Rs. 28·07 lakhs. Over ten miles of new roads were constructed in all Circles at a cost of Rs. 17,087 and repairs to about 1,050 miles of existing roads costing Rs. 78,646 were carried out during the year. The total number of offences against forest laws increased from 21,297 to 22,229, the Central Circle alone being responsible for the increase. The total number of cattle admitted to graze in the forests was 2,329,582 as against 2,379,892 of the previous year. The grazing fees collected during the year amounted to Rs. 4·96 lakhs as against Rs. 5·08 lakhs in the previous year, the value at full rates being Rs. 20·35 lakhs. During the year 1,813,000 cubic feet of timber and fuel were extracted departmentally, together with sandalwood worth about Rs. 98,000 and minor produce, grass, etc. to the value of Rs. 1,182.

Co-operative Movement.—In spite of general agrarian distress the movement showed steady progress during the year under

report. The working capital and particularly the share capital both in agricultural and non-agricultural societies recorded a satisfactory increase. There was a keen demand for registration of fresh societies embracing various activities and 259 new societies came into existence as against 36 ordered to be wound up. The scheme of concessions introduced in 1933 continued to be in operation throughout the year and helped a large number of societies to regain their vitality. The revised scheme of supervision was put into operation and the reorganisation, which is being carried out through the supervising unions and the District Boards of Supervising Unions, holds out fair prospects of further development of co-operative activities in rural areas on sound lines.

The progress in the development of non-agricultural movement was also satisfactory. The cotton sale societies have established their reputation as an effective agency for securing better prices to the cotton growers. The scheme for the organisation of sugarcane growers resulted in the registration of 12 cane-growers' societies. The increase in the number of taluka development associations from 95 to 102 was an indication of the growing recognition of the need for village uplift work among the rural masses. The "Better living" societies also did useful work in the programme of rural uplift. The weavers' societies did not show any material progress, but it is hoped that the establishment of the District Industrial Associations and the attempts being made to convert them into producing centres will give them an impetus and revitalise them.

The Provincial and District Central Banks provided finance to the rural primaries on cautious and sympathetic lines. The financing agencies had to give special attention to famine-stricken areas and devise special arrangements for meeting the urgent needs of members of agricultural societies to tide over the distress caused by the failure of rains, and later on for fresh agricultural operations. The inflow of deposits, in spite of considerable reduction in the rates of interest, continued and was an indication of the public confidence in the solvency and

stability of these banks. In the realm of long-term finance, the Provincial Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank sanctioned loans to the Primary Land Mortgage Banks to the extent of over Rs. 9 lakhs and actually disbursed Rs. 6 lakhs, the bulk of the loans being for purposes of redemption of old debts.

On the non-agricultural side of the movement, the urban credit movement continued to show signs of rapid expansion and increased activities. The progress achieved by the salary-earners' societies was particularly noteworthy. During the year, a distinct revival of co-operation in the industrial area in Bombay was noticeable. The Bombay Co-operative Insurance Society made satisfactory progress. The consumers' movement showed signs of deterioration which was reflected in the fall in the share capital, the working capital and the turnover. The housing societies, particularly those situated at Ahmedabad, continued to forge ahead. The attempts made at colonizing the Harijans, mostly working in the mills at Ahmedabad, were a distinguishing feature of the housing movement.

The Provincial Co-operative Institute continued to function as an educative and propaganda organization.

Apart from the training imparted to the departmental employees, a number of Honorary Organisers and employees of Central and Urban Banks availed themselves of the facilities provided by the Co-operative Training and Education Scheme. The attitude of the public continued to be friendly and appreciative.

PART II

CHAPTER I

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

LAND RECORDS

THE functions of the Land Records Department are to provide the statistics necessary for sound administration in all matters connected with the land, to reduce, simplify and cheapen litigation in the Revenue and Civil Courts, to provide a Record of Rights for the protection of all who hold interests in land and lastly to simplify and cheapen periodical settlement operations. Survey and classification of land, and a full record maintained not spasmodically but from day to day as every change occurs, are indispensable for the assessment and collection of land revenue. This is a task which is never completed. It extends to the cities as well as the countryside and forests. Uninteresting and tedious as much of its work must be, nevertheless, the work of the Land Records Department lies as the woof and warp underneath all the elaborate material of which Provincial Administration is composed.

The main function of the Department is to maintain all survey and classification records up to date and for this purpose to carry out field operations preliminary to the incorporation of changes in these records. It has further to organise and carry out rural and city surveys on an extensive scale and maintain them in a state of usefulness. Special surveys for private individuals or bodies such as relate to inam villages, surveys in connection with Railway or Municipal or Local Board projects, etc., and surveys on behalf of other Departments of Government and sometimes even Indian States are also undertaken. The supervision of the preparation and the maintenance of the Record of Rights, the periodical inspection of boundary marks and the introduction of revision settlements complete the function of the Department.

An important innovation by this Department was the introduction of the new combined Village Form VII and XII which gives statistics about rents, tenancies, etc., and provides the data for the preparation of Electoral Rolls.

The superior staff of the Department consists of a Director of Land Records, two Superintendents of Land Records and District Inspectors of Land Records. The Director of Land Records is also the Inspector General of Registration and Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages. He is also the controlling officer for the Government Photo Zinco Press, Poona. Under Government orders the districts in the three Divisions are redistributed into three Circles. The Central Circle, with headquarters at Poona, is immediately under the Director of Land Records, while the Northern and the Southern Circles with headquarters at Ahmedabad and Belgaum, respectively, are under the Superintendents of Land Records, N. C. and S. C.

The subordinate staff of the Department is divided into three sections—

(*a*) the district staff of Circle Inspectors under the Collectors,

(*b*) the cadastral survey staff (including city survey staff) under the District Inspectors of Land Records, and

(*c*) staff in District Survey offices, who keep all the survey records up to date.

The Superintendents and the District Inspectors of Land Records supervise all the three sections, but in respect of (*a*) their function is rather to advise and assist while the actual orders are given by the Revenue Officers. As to (*b*) and (*c*) the administration is direct.

A complete record of rights and interests in lands has been prepared for all unalienated and many alienated villages throughout the Presidency and steps are being taken to prepare it for the remaining alienated villages where arrangements for its maintenance are possible without extra cost. The record has proved of great value to the land revenue administration and to the public at large who are not slow in realising its importance as an authentic record of their titles.

The ordinary work of the Department was carried on during the year, particularly, routine measurement work in all the Divisions of the Presidency. A temporary staff was employed on various measurement works in several districts.

No revision settlements were undertaken during the year.

City Surveys form an important part of land records. Such surveys have now been introduced in Bombay City and in most of the important cities and towns in the Presidency. Suitable arrangements have also been made for the maintenance of city survey records. No new city survey operations are now taken up as it is found more and more difficult to make cheap and suitable arrangements for their maintenance. If, however, the Municipality or other Local Body agrees to advance the estimated cost, city survey operations are taken up under orders of Government, the amount advanced being refunded from the sanad fees recovered from property holders. Maintenance of these new city surveyed towns is, however, not undertaken.

The enquiry work of Sirsi city survey has been completed, while it has been started at Sawda in East Khandesh district.

The system of writing Property Registers on cards is being extended gradually to all the old City Surveys which are under regular maintenance.

GUJARAT TALUKDARS ACT

Under the provisions of various Acts, including the Gujarat Talukdars Act, the Court of Wards Act, the Guardians and Wards Act, etc., Government are empowered to take over the management of estates whose owners, by reason of minority, incapacity, etc., are not considered capable of looking after them. A large number of these is in the Ahmedabad District where in all there are six estates managed by the Collector who is also Talukdari Settlement Officer.

The Jama demand of the district for the year, including past arrears, was Rs. 6·55 lakhs, out of which Rs. 4·95 lakhs were recovered. The total rental demand of the estates under management, including arrears of past years, was about Rs. 89,000 out of which about Rs. 66,000 were collected.

There were 28 sons of Talukdars receiving education at the Talukdari Hostel at Dhandhuka at the close of the year as against 21 last year.

No estate was released from management, but one was taken under management during the year, making six estates under management at the close of the year.

COURT OF WARDS ACT

The Bombay Court of Wards Act was passed in 1905. Under this Act the Commissioners of Divisions are the Courts of Wards for the limits of their Divisions. With the sanction of Government, they assume superintendence of estates of landholders who, on account of minority or physical or mental defects or infirmity, are not qualified to manage their property and also on application by the landholders of estates that are heavily indebted. Arrangements are also made for the education of minor wards.

CHAPTER II

LAW AND JUSTICE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

DURING the year under review the legislative system was the same as in previous years. As from April 1st, 1937, the constitution of the legislatures was radically altered with the coming into force of the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935. These will be incorporated into the General Administration Report for 1937-38.

During the period between the 1st April 1936 and the 31st March 1937, seventeen Acts were passed by the Legislative Council of the Governor of Bombay and, having received the assents of Their Excellencies the Governor and Governor-General, became law.

They were as follows :—

Act No. VIII of 1936 (*An Act to amend the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act*, 1925) was enacted to facilitate the formation of co-operative crop protection societies for definite areas for carrying out fencing schemes and to make it obligatory on any small minority who oppose any scheme to bear the proportionate cost of it and to lay down a procedure for the recovery of this amount.

Act No. IX of 1936 (*An Act to amend the Bombay Port Trust Act*, 1879) was enacted to bring the Bombay Port Trust Act, 1879, into line with the Acts relating to other major ports by inserting a specific provision that the debentures or any other loans raised by the Trustees shall be a first charge on the income and property of the Trustees.

Act No. X of 1936 (*An Act to amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act*, 1888, *and the Bombay University Act*, 1928) was passed in order to remove the anomaly arising out of the fact that members elected as fellows of the Bombay University by the Municipal Corporation of Bombay, the Indian Merchants' Chamber, the Chamber of Commerce and the Millowners' Association at Bombay and Ahmedabad, and the Councillor elected by the Bombay University on the Municipal Corporation of Bombay continued to sit as

members of the body to which they were elected although they had ceased to be members of the body which had elected them. The Act also made it clear that a Councillor elected by the fellows of the University on the Bombay Municipal Corporation was not eligible to be elected as a fellow of the University by the Municipal Corporation.

Act No. XI of 1936 (*An Act to amend the Bombay District Municipal Act*, 1901) made provision for the recovery of arrears of taxes levied in a notified area which has been abolished.

Act No. XII of 1936 (*An Act to amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act*, 1888) carried out a number of amendments in the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888. One of them obviated the necessity of holding a bye-election to fill up a casual vacancy occurring within four months prior to the day for retirement as defined in section 7.

Act No. XIII of 1936 (*An Act to amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act*, 1888) brought the municipal franchise into line with the franchise for the Bombay Legislative Assembly by lowering the level of the monthly rental which qualified for franchise from Rs. 10 to Rs. 5.

Act No. XIV of 1936 (*An Act to amend the Bombay District Municipal Act*, 1901, *the Bombay Local Boards Act*, 1923, *and the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act*, 1925) was enacted to provide that all election petitions in respect of the same election should be heard together by the same judge and that judges should not permit election petitions once made to be compromised or withdrawn or any pleading therein altered or amended unless such alteration or amendment was *bona fide* and not collusive.

Act No. XV of 1936 (*An Act to amend the Indian Lunacy Act*, 1912, *in its application to the Presidency of Bombay, the Bombay District Municipal Act*, 1901, *and the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act*, 1925) empowered the Courts mentioned in section 88 of the Indian Lunacy Act, 1912, to fix the liability of municipalities for the maintenance of lunatics and also enacted that a Court shall not pass an order for the recovery of the cost of maintenance of a lunatic from a local authority if the lunatic had an estate applicable to his maintenance or if there was any person legally bound to maintain him and having the means to maintain him. The provisos to section 55 of the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901, and section 70 of the Bombay Municipal Boroughs

Act, 1925, were also amended in order to bring them in conformity with the above amendments.

Act No. XVI of 1936 (*An Act to amend the Sir Chinubhai Madhavlal Ranchodlal Baronetcy Act,* 1924) substituted the Official Trustee of Bombay as one of the trustees of the Baronetcy Trust in place of the Accountant General and the District Judge, Ahmedabad.

Act No. XVII of 1936 (*An Act to amend the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act,* 1925) invested the Registrar with powers to set aside the award of an arbitrator made under section 54 and refer the dispute to fresh arbitration.

Act No. XVIII of 1936 (*An Act to amend the Bombay Local Boards Act,* 1923) reduced the franchise for election to district local boards to the same level as that for the Bombay Legislative Assembly and enfranchised tenants of talukdari lands.

Act No. XIX of 1936 (*The Bombay Famine Relief Fund Act,* 1936) was enacted to meet the situation arising out of the commencement of Part III of the Government of India Act, 1935. As the Devolution Rules ceased to operate, the Famine Relief Fund ceased to exist as a statutory fund and the amount of the fund merged in the general provincial revenues. The Act conserved the balance to the credit of that fund and established a new statutory fund to take the place of the old one.

Act No. XX of 1936 (*The Bombay Opium Smoking Act,* 1936) was enacted to discourage the opium smoking habit by the suppression of opium smoking dens which were the main sources of illicit manufacture, possession and sale of prepared opium.

Act No. XXI of 1936 (*An Act to amend the Bombay District Police Act,* 1890, *and the City of Bombay Police Act,* 1902) was passed to facilitate the administration of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1890. The Bombay District Police Act was amended so as to empower a police officer to order the detention of an animal in a dispensary or any other suitable place approved by Government. The City of Bombay Police Act, 1902, was also amended so as to enable the police in the City of Bombay to exercise similar powers.

Act No. XXII of 1936 (*An Act to amend the Bombay Weights and Measures Act,* 1932) legalised the charging of fees for verification, reverification and adjustment of weights or measures or weighing or measuring instruments, by all

local bodies directed to keep secondary or working standards. It also empowered Government to prescribe the amount of error which might be tolerated in selling articles by weights or measures.

Act No. XXIII of 1936 (*The Parsi Public Trusts Registration Act*, 1936) was a piece of legislation enacted at the instance of a non-official member. The object of the Act is to make compulsory the registration of important Parsi trusts as also the auditing of their accounts and their periodic submission to the Registrar. The administration of Parsi trusts was thus brought into line with that of Hindu and Mahomedan trusts.

Act No. XXIV of 1936 (*An Act to amend certain enactments*) was passed with the object of making necessary amendments of a formal nature in certain enactments, with a view to remove textual discrepancies and errors and to make some of the provisions clearer.

Government Bills.—Fourteen Bills were published and introduced in the Legislative Council during the period under report; two were published, introduced and passed before this period, but received the assents of Their Excellencies the Governor and Governor-General during the said period. All the sixteen Bills became Acts during the period under report.

Private Bills.—During the period under report, two Bills were introduced and published; two were only published, having been introduced before the said period; and one Bill, which was introduced and published and had passed its first reading before the period under report, reached its further stages during the period under report.

Of the above, one Bill, namely, Bill No. XXXII of 1935 (A Bill to provide for the registration, publication and inspection of trusts created or existing for a public purpose for the benefit of Parsis and of certain trusts created by Parsis, and for keeping, auditing, filing, inspection and publication of accounts in respect thereof) by Dr. M. D. Gilder, was passed and became law.

Government Resolutions and Motions.—One Government Motion was moved by the Honourable Member concerned, and carried. No Resolution was moved during the period under report.

Non-official Resolutions.—One non-official Resolution was moved during the period under report, and lost.

Five Statutory Motions were moved during the period under report. All of them were either lost or withdrawn.

Motions for Adjournment of the House.—Two Motions for the Adjournment of the House were moved; one was carried and the other lost.

Condolatory References.—Reference was made during the period under report to the death of Mr. A. Greville Bullocke, who was a member of the Legislative Council for several years.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The High Court, consisting of a Chief Justice, nine Puisne Judges and three temporary additional Judges, has both ordinary and extraordinary civil and criminal jurisdiction and exercises original and appellate functions. The appellate Judges of the High Court also supervise the administration of justice by Subordinate Civil and Criminal Courts. Ordinary original jurisdiction is exercised in matters both civil and criminal, which arise within the limits of the Town and Island of Bombay, but the High Court may in Civil cases remove and itself try any suit brought in any Court under its superintendence, and, in criminal cases, exercise jurisdiction over all persons residing in any place whose Courts are subject to the superintendence of the High Court.

In the Mofussil, the administration of civil justice is, in addition to the High Court, entrusted to four grades of Courts, those of District and Assistant Judges and of two classes of officers styled, respectively, First and Second Class Subordinate Judges.

The Small Causes Court.—For the more easy recovery of small debts and demands, Courts invested with summary powers have been established in the City of Bombay and in Ahmedabad and Poona. The Judges of the mofussil Small Causes Courts have jurisdiction in money suits within the towns where the Courts are situated up to Rs. 500 in value and their decisions are final, save in so far as they are subject to reference on points of law to the High Court or to the supervision of the High Court in its extraordinary jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of these Courts may be extended to Rs. 1,000. The Presidency Small Causes Court has cognisance in suits not exceeding Rs. 2,000 in value arising within the Island of Bombay.

Criminal Courts.—District and Assistant Judges under the title of Sessions Judges, Additional and Assistant Sessions

Judges exercise criminal jurisdiction. But the executive district officers, who in addition to their revenue duties, are invested with magisterial powers, dispose of original criminal work to a great extent. There are under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, in addition to the High Court, four grades of Criminal Courts—those of the Magistrates of the Third, Second and First Class, respectively, and the Courts of Sessions.

CIVIL JUSTICE

High Court.—The total number of original suits decided by the High Court was 2,617, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,900. Of these one was ten years old ; one 8 years ; four, 7 years ; twelve, 6 years ; thirteen, 5 years ; twenty-eight, 4 years ; one hundred and twenty, 3 years ; two hundred and seventy-nine, 2 years ; four hundred and twenty, 1 year ; and 1,022 less than a year. The Court also disposed of 19 suits under its Testamentary and Intestate Jurisdiction and five under the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Jurisdiction. The number of Insolvency petitions for disposal was 2,820 ; of these 752 were decided and 2,068 remained pending at the close of the year. There were in all 2,813 applications for execution of decrees, of which 1,781 were dealt with.

On the Appellate Side there were 68 appeals against decrees and orders on the Original Side of the High Court and of these 41 were disposed of. Of the 76 appeals under Letters Patent, 45 were decided. Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts numbered 4,311 of which 1,366 were disposed of, leaving 2,945 pending at the end of the year. The average duration of first appeals confirmed, modified, reversed or remanded was 1,580 days and those dismissed or not prosecuted was 229 days.

Subordinate Courts.—In the Civil Courts subordinate to the High Court, 4,529 appeals were instituted during the year and 4,424 were disposed of, leaving 4,435 pending at the close of the year. The number of original suits instituted was 152,785, showing a decrease of 5,955 over the previous year. The total value of suits instituted was Rs. 473 lakhs. The largest number of suits instituted during the year was in Poona (16,060). Institutions exceeded 10,000 in East Khandesh, Nasik and West Khandesh and ranged from 5,000 to 10,000 in most of the other districts. Bijapur and Kolaba showed 4,948 and 3,328 suits as instituted, while the lowest figure 2,926 came to the share of Kanara. The total number of suits for disposal

was 230,480, of which 157,345 were decided. Out of the suits disposed of during the year 18,436 or 11·08 per cent. were disposed of without trial, 32,077 or 20·4 per cent. were disposed of *ex parte*, 19,251 or 12·2 per cent. on admission of claims, 38,075 or 24·2 per cent. by compromise, 47,736 or 30·3 per cent. after full trial, 729 or 0·6 per cent. on reference to arbitration and 1,041 or 0·7 per cent. by transfer. Of the 47,736 decided after full trial, 43,020 or 90·1 per cent. resulted in favour of the plaintiffs and 4,716 or 9·8 per cent. in favour of the defendants. There were in all 298,022 applications for execution before the Courts, of which 189,087 were disposed of during the year.

The Small Causes Court, Bombay.—It dealt with 38,733 suits and left 6,276 pending. Institutions during the year numbered 37,620. There was an increase in the institution of suits not exceeding Rs. 10, suits exceeding Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 500, and suits exceeding Rs. 500 but not exceeding Rs. 1,000. The total value of litigation was about Rs. 70 lakhs. Out of 36,350 applications for the execution of decrees 30,468 were disposed of and 5,882 remained pending. The total amount realised was Rs. 11·87 lakhs as compared with Rs. 11·91 lakhs last year.

Receipts and charges of the High Court.—For the year 1936 the total receipts of the High Court amounted to Rs. 25·49 lakhs on the Original Side and Rs. 1·94 lakhs on the Appellate Side, making an aggregate of Rs. 27·43 lakhs. The total charges were Rs. 9·78 lakhs on the Original Side and Rs. 4·62 lakhs on the Appellate Side amounting in all to Rs. 14·40 lakhs. The difference between the receipts and expenditure is Rs. 13·03 lakhs. The receipts however include Probate and Administration Duty amounting to Rs. 14·14 lakhs—a tax collected through the agency of the High Court and forming no part of its income, while no debit is made on the expenditure side for the rent and upkeep of the High Court buildings and pensionary charges.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

There were 290,687 offences during the year—an increase of 863 over the figures of the last year and 283,690 cases were found true. Of these 280 were murders of which 163 ended in conviction. The number of cases brought to trial before the Courts of Presidency Magistrates, including Honorary Magistrates, was 161,848, showing an increase of 6,475 over the previous year. The number of cases under Special or Local Laws was 152,237 and the number under the Indian Penal

Code was 9,611. The cases disposed of by Magistrates numbered 155,923, leaving 6,037 pending at the end of the year.

The total number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates was 166,826. Of these 141,444 were convicted. Of the persons convicted 5,273 were punished with imprisonment ; 131,390 with fine ; 90 with whipping ; 4,002 convicted persons were released after admonition and 699 were let off on probation. Of the sentences of imprisonment, 3,907 were for periods not exceeding 15 days ; 1,327 not exceeding 6 months ; and 39 not exceeding 2 years. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 4·80 lakhs.

The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Mofussil Tribunals was 193,889. Of these the cases of 1,000 were committed to the Sessions or referred to higher authorities and of the remaining 192,889 the cases of 174,924 were finally disposed of by the various Tribunals. Of the total 174,924, 105,043 or 60·05 per cent. were convicted and 69,193 or 39·5 per cent. were acquitted or discharged, 137 persons died, 467 escaped during trial and 84 were transferred.

The sentences passed on persons convicted were imprisonment, 8,810 ; fine, 93,932 ; forfeiture of property, 3 ; whipping, 115 ; and ordered to give security, 4,185. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed 1,748 were for terms not exceeding 15 days, 5,904 for terms not exceeding six months, 1,105 for terms not exceeding two years and 53 for terms above two years. The amount of fines imposed totalled Rs. 8·24 lakhs.

The Courts of Sessions in the mofussil dealt with 2,096 persons. Of these 1,757 were tried and 937 or 53·3 per cent. were convicted. The death sentence was passed on 28 ; transportation, 89 ; imprisonment, . 791 ; fine, 105 ; whipping, 4 ; and 29 were ordered to give security.

The number of appeals decided by the Courts subordinate to the High Court was 2,883 as against 2,811 in the preceding year.

The High Court sessions dealt with 105 cases out of 106 brought for trial. On the Appellate Side the High Court disposed of 552 appeals, leaving 60 pending at the end of the year and decided 158 cases in revision, leaving 19 pending.

The number of original and appellate criminal cases disposed of during the year in all courts in the Presidency including the High Court was 281,040 and 4,831, respectively, as against 279,491 and 4,608 in the previous year.

REGISTRATION

During the year 1936, 266,339 registrations were recorded in the Bombay Presidency against 259,095 in 1935—an increase of 2·8 per cent. Compulsory as well as optional registrations affecting immoveable property rose from 247,250 to 254,332 and from 6,493 to 6,659 respectively. Wills increased from 1,862 to 1,883. The rise or fall, as the case may be, in these classes of documents was hardly large enough to require explanation. The proportion of optional to compulsory registrations during the year under review, as well as during the preceding year, was 1 : 21. The increase in the total registrations was mainly due to mortgages affecting immoveable property. These mortgages numbered 80,587 and their aggregate value was Rs. 5·34 crores against 74,817 and Rs. 6·66 crores respectively in the previous year. As regards the other classes of documents, sales showed a rise from 129,429 to 131,546 and gifts from 4,291 to 4,405, but leases a decline from 26,214 to 25,125. The heavy increase in the number of mortgages was perhaps due to the unwillingness of the public to part with their lands permanently at the current rates though they were forced to borrow for their current needs. Various reasons were given by the District Registrars for the increase in sales and mortgages, chief among these being the low rates of interest on Government securities and bank rates and greater confidence in investments in immoveable property, the increased activity of co-operative societies, and the scarcity conditions in several parts of the Presidency. During the year 13,499 documents relating to co-operative societies were registered against 10,915 registered in the previous year. The number of documents received for photography was 95,193 as compared with 95,144 in 1935. No document was rejected as being unfit for photography, which shows to what stage of perfection the system has reached. Under the Special Marriage Act 141 marriages were registered against 82 in the previous year. The income of the Department fell from Rs. 15·34 lakhs in 1935 to Rs. 15·32 lakhs in 1936. The expenditure rose from Rs. 5·20 lakhs to Rs. 5·36 lakhs.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

The number of new companies registered during the year was 167, as against 175 (including Sind) in the preceding year. Of these 167 companies, 63 were public limited companies, 100 private limited companies and four were limited by guarantee. The number of companies in operation at the end of the year

was 1,408 (of which 646 were public, 685 private and 77 limited by guarantee) as against 1,319 (excluding Sind) at the close of 1936. The aggregate increase in the total authorised capital was about Rs. 24,97 lakhs, while the increases in the subscribed and paid-up capital were about Rs. 2,60 lakhs and Rs. 2,05 lakhs respectively. Thirteen companies incorporated outside British India established their place of business in this Presidency during the year, as against 12 in the previous year. The number of societies registered under the Societies Registration Act during the year was 37 as against 57 in the preceding year. The total number of Provident Insurance Societies at work at the end of the year was 57 as against 56 (excluding Sind) at the commencement of the year. The number of documents of various classes registered during the year was 5,287 as against 5,215 in the previous year. The total income from fees amounted to Rs. 61,508 while the total expenditure was Rs. 24,675.

CHAPTER III

POLICE AND CRIME

THE Police force consists of two distinct bodies, stipendiary and the village police. The stipendiary force is divided into grades, the members of which, beginning as Constables, have the opportunity of becoming Head Constables, Sub-Inspectors, Inspectors and even Deputy Superintendents. In the mofussil—

the Sub-Inspector has charge of the Police Station,
the Inspector has charge of a Sub-Division comprising several Police Stations or a large Town, and
an Assistant Superintendent of Police or a Deputy Superintendent has charge of a Sub-Division of a District.

The whole staff of the Police Prosecuting Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors is now designated as Police Prosecutors.

It is not the purpose of Government to give the stipendiary police a regular military character, and a portion only are armed and to them are allotted the duties of guarding jails and lock-ups and the escort of prisoners and treasure. The more purely police functions are discharged equally by members of the armed and of the unarmed branches of the force.

The proportion of police to area and population of the different portions of the Presidency varies greatly, being determined by a consideration of the nature of the country, the density and character of the population, and the neighbourhood of Indian States.

In the Northern Range there is one policeman to every 3·97 square miles and to 839 inhabitants.

In the Southern Range 1 to 5·23 square miles and to 1,024 inhabitants.

For the purpose of control the whole force is under the Inspector-General of Police, who is assisted by three Deputy Inspectors-General of Police. Certain administrative powers have, however, been reserved to the Commissioners of Divisions.

The executive management of the police in each district is vested, under the general direction of the Magistrate of the

District, in a Superintendent of Police, who is assisted by a Deputy Superintendent, and has in some cases one or more Assistant Superintendents under him.

Railway Police.—A special police organisation exists in connection with the railways of this Presidency—the B. B. & C. I., the G. I. P. and the M. & S. M. Railways. The police employed along these lines of rail are under the supervision of two Superintendents. The Railway Police form a distinct body quite independent of the Police of the districts in which they serve, but their pay and prospects are identical with those of the District Police. Since the year 1919 the cost of the Crime and Order Police is wholly debited to the Provincial Revenues and that of the Watch and Ward Staff is borne by Railway Administrations.

Criminal Investigation Department.—In addition to the police attached to individual districts there exists a special organisation for the detection of crime called the Criminal Investigation Department, which includes the Finger Print Bureau and is under the immediate control of a Deputy Inspector-General of Police. The Criminal Investigation Department, in co-operation with the Police of other provinces, is employed in the prevention of the spread of serious crime, in the investigation into crime having ramifications over several jurisdictions and in the pursuit of criminals. The Finger Print Bureau has been working satisfactorily since its establishment in 1901.

MOFUSSIL POLICE

The year 1936 was normal throughout and free from the anxieties resulting from serious political movements or industrial strife. As regards crime generally, cognizable crime reported during 1936 tallied with the figures of 1935, being thus lower than in previous years. There was a decrease in serious crime as also in the number of cases pending with the police. The control and restraint exercised by the Criminal Tribes Act was one of the reasons for the decrease.

The total number of cognizable and non-cognizable offences reported during the year was 142,925 as against 143,789 in 1935. The number of cognizable cases dealt with by the police *suo motu* during the year was 26,059 while those dealt with by Magistrates direct amounted to 10,823 giving a total of 36,882 as against a total of 37,825 in 1935. The total non-cognizable crime numbered 106,043 as against 105,964 in 1935.

The number of cases reported under the more important heads of crime was 13,214 against 13,264 in the preceding year, a decrease of 50 cases. Murders numbered 397, attempts at murder and culpable homicides 150, dacoities 155, robberies 486, house-breakings with intent to commit an offence, etc., 4,814, thefts (including cattle thefts) 6,853 and receiving stolen property 359.

The incidence of total crime under the Indian Penal Code for the Presidency, including Railways, works out to 1·09 per thousand of population in 1936, a very slight reduction compared to the preceding three years, viz., 1·10. Serious crime in 1936 has remained stationary at ·78 as in the year before. Bombay Suburban and Ratnagiri retain their reputation of being respectively the most and least criminal districts in the Presidency, their respective incidences of crime for 1936 being 3·98 and ·27 per 1,000 of population.

Inclusive of the cases pending from the previous year, the cognizable cases for disposal during the year under report was 30,252 against 30,449 last year. The number of cases excluded as false or due to mistakes of law or fact was 3,860 against 4,141. Of the 3,860 cases excluded 760 were compounded. The percentage of conviction to cases tried was 76·72 against 78·02. The total number of cases under all classes pending at the close of the year stood at 3,999 against 3,884 in the year before. Eliminating cases excluded and those pending at the close of the year, real cognizable crime disposed of during the year works out to 22,317 cases as against 22,353 in 1935, a decrease of only 36 cases. The total number of undetected cases during the year under report was 5,989 as against 6,175 in 1935—a decrease of 186 cases.

Out of 15,231 police cases decided by trial, 14,423 ended in conviction as against 14,308 out of 15,108 cases tried in 1935. The percentage of cases convicted to those tried was 94·69 as against 94·70 in 1935 under all classes and 91·30 against 91·38 respectively under the Indian Penal Code.

Including pending cases, offences under special and local laws dealt with by the police numbered 8,124 in 1936 as against 7,971 in the year before, returning an increase of 153 cases. Analysing the figures by districts, Ahmedabad returned the highest increase (280), followed by Sholapur (158) and Nasik (128).

The number of true cases dealt with by Magistrates in 1936, without the intervention of the police, under all classes was 10,823 against 11,767 in 1935, the number convicted being 6,387 against 7,301 in 1935.

The total number of persons arrested by the police *suo motu* was 26,747 as compared with 25,925 in the previous year. Inclusive of the persons concerned in cases pending from the previous year, the total number of persons for disposal was 32,180 as against 31,617 in 1935. Of the 32,180 persons for disposal, those under the Indian Penal Code numbered 22,675 of whom 16,548 were tried during the year and 10,908 were convicted, giving a percentage of 65·91 of the total tried against 64·97 in 1935.

Reported non-cognizable crime rose from 105,964 in 1935 to 106,043 in the year under report—an increase of only 79 but the highest record during the last decade. The total number of cases for disposal including those pending from the previous year was 111,375 as against 111,417 in 1935. Of the former, 88,793 were tried and 77,305 ended in conviction against 88,556 and 77,305 cases respectively in the year before, giving a percentage of 87·06 of cases convicted to cases tried, as against 87·48 in 1935. The number of persons concerned in non-cognizable cases that appeared before the courts in 1936 was 150,057 as against 150,446 in the previous year. Persons discharged after appearance without trial numbered 8,717 as against 9,151 in 1935 ; of the 117,861 persons tried, 84,316 were convicted and 33,545 discharged or acquitted, as against 116,553, 84,497 and 32,056 respectively in the year before. The percentage of persons convicted to those tried slightly declined from 72·49 in 1935 to 71·53 during the year under report.

The value of property stolen in 1936 in connection with cognizable cases was Rs. 7,74,099 against Rs. 7,22,059 in 1935, the corresponding figures of the value of property recovered being respectively Rs. 2,48,759 and Rs. 2,27,035. The percentage of property recovered to property stolen, based on the percentage of property recovered in individual cases, was 44·10 in 1936 against 52·19 in 1935.

During the year under report, 3,231 out of 19,178 persons convicted were identified as having been previously convicted, and 752 were classed as "Habitual offenders" against 2,667, 19,130 and 711 respectively in 1935. The highest number of "Habitual offenders" was returned by Ahmedabad (124), followed by East Khandesh (107) and Poona (83).

In addition to their usual duties in connection with the licensing and supervision of Public Conveyances and the escort of prisoners and treasure, the Police served 202,579 summonses and warrants; extinguished 1,199 fires; destroyed 75,473 stray dogs; investigated 1,111 cases referred to them by the Magistracy, as well as 38,613 petty offences under the Cantonment, Public Conveyances, Motor Vehicles and other minor Acts; enquired into 1,387 suicides, 5,296 accidents in districts *plus* 744 on the Railways and 490 suspicious or sudden deaths; six Military deserters were also apprehended by the police.

There were 54 officers of and above the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police. The sanctioned strength of (*a*) officers below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and (*b*) men, stood at (*a*) 725 and (*b*) 17,508 respectively, as against (*a*) 717 and (*b*) 17,576 in the year before.

The cost of the police, including the Railway police and the clerical establishment, for the financial year 1936–37 in the Presidency was Rs. 98·5 lakhs as against Rs. 99 lakhs in 1935–36. The proportion of police to area, population and cognizable crime investigated, was one policeman to 4·51 square miles, 2·30 Railway miles, 920 persons and 1·37 cognizable crime investigated, as against 4·49 square miles, 2·19 Railway miles, 917 persons and 1·38 cognizable crime investigated in the previous year.

BOMBAY CITY POLICE

During the year 1936 the political situation in the city was quiet and industrial strikes were fewer than in the preceding year largely on account of the efforts of the Labour Officer appointed by Government. The outstanding event of the year was the communal riot between Hindus and Muhammadans over the Byculla Sabha-Mandap. The riot lasted intermittently for nearly two months, the casualties being 94 dead and 632 injured.

Cognizable and non-cognizable cases reported during the year numbered 208,173 against 207,205 in 1935. The total number of cognizable cases of all classes reported to the police during the year was 137,451 against 140,162 in 1935. The total Indian Penal Code crime is the lowest since 1911, if 492 cases connected with the riots are excluded; while the total crime for the year fell slightly below the level of 1910. These results are largely due to persistent and systematic action under section 27

(1) and (2A) of the Bombay City Police Act and measures under the Police Register Transfer system against the criminals. Under Class VI, 130,841 cases were reported against 133,348 in 1935.

Including 2,095 cases pending from the preceding year and 56 cases of previous years again brought on to the register, there were 139,602 cases for disposal against 142,028 in 1935. The total number of excluded cases of all classes for the year 1936 was 98 against 272 in 1935. The percentage of excluded cases to cases reported works out to 0·07. At the end of the year there were 2,399 cases of all classes pending as against 2,095 in 1935.

During the year 1936, 137,074 cases of all classes were classified as true against 139,642 in the previous year. Of these, 126,473 resulted in conviction, giving a percentage of 92·27 as compared with 94·01 in 1935. The total number of cases of all classes remaining undetected at the end of the year was 3,334 against 3,372 in 1935. The percentage of non-detection works out to 2·39 against 2·37 in 1935.

Serious offences against the person for disposal numbered 1,281 and convictions were obtained in 351 cases. There were 167 cases of murder and attempted murder including 12 cases pending from the preceding year against 72 in 1935. Of these, 16 ended in conviction, 10 in acquittal, 1 declared to be false, 2 declared to be mistake of facts, in 1 the accused was declared to be a lunatic, in 1 the accused died before trial, 104 remained undetected (including 7 cases of infanticide) and 32 were pending at the end of the year. There were 11 cases of culpable homicide inclusive of 3 cases pending from the preceding year. Of these, 7 ended in conviction, 1 in acquittal, 2 remained undetected and 1 was pending at the end of the year.

Including 1,370 cases pending from the preceding year the offences under the special and local laws dealt with by the police numbered 132,023 against 134,185 in 1935. Of these, 124,168 ended in conviction. The bulk of these cases fell under the Bombay City Police Act, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Public Conveyances Act, Bombay Prevention of Gambling Act, and the City of Bombay Municipal Act. The offences under other Local Acts were comparatively few.

The beggar nuisance showed no signs of abatement. 4,013 beggars were dealt with under the Bombay City Police Act and 74 were externed. On account of the communal riots the police

were unable to pay so much attention to this nuisance as in the preceding year.

For the same reason, for three months very little attention could be given to betting and gambling offences and the statistics really represent nine months' work. The total number of places raided during the year was 434 as against 730 of the previous year. After the new amendment to the Gambling Act there was a noticeable cessation in sutta gambling for a month or so doubtless due to the fact that the principals were engaged in finding out exactly how the law would affect them and how they could best circumvent it. The number of persons proceeded against under section 12 was 1,970 as compared with 2,813 in 1935, and the number of such cases was 977 against 1,439 in 1935. Gambling as it existed before the passing of the amendment to the Act has decreased but organised gambling with the aid of telephones still continues.

The number of non-cognizable cases reported to the Magistracy was 50,471 as compared with 41,421 in 1935. With 5,643 cases pending from the previous year the total number of cases for disposal was 56,114 of which 40,199 ended in conviction. The number of offences under special and local laws reported direct to the Magistracy during the year was 46,940 against 39,047 in 1935. In these 56,114 non-cognizable cases, 58,329 persons were involved of whom 40,348 were convicted.

During the year under report 140,632 persons were prosecuted by the police, exclusive of 2,800 under arrest at the close of 1935, against 144,300 in 1935. Of these, 130,599 were convicted. The percentage thus stands at 92·87 against 93·07 in 1935.

The total value of property alleged to have been stolen in cognizable cases reported to the police amounted to Rs. 8·23 lakhs as compared with Rs. 6·81 lakhs in 1935. The total value of property recovered was Rs. 1·27 lakhs which gives a recovery percentage of 15·42 as compared with 27·40 in 1935. The communal riots which broke out in the year under report were responsible for this large amount of property stolen as will be evident from the fact that no less than Rs. 3·56 lakhs worth of property was reported as stolen during the riots and of this only Rs. 2,327 worth of property was recovered.

Altogether 64 children were dealt with under the different provisions of the Bombay Children Act and 15 were arrested for begging under the City Police Act. Under the Prevention

of Prostitution Act 152 cases were picked up for soliciting and 22 cases were dealt with for living on the earnings of prostitution. Of the former 150 and of the latter 15 ended in conviction.

During the year 3,921 motor cars, 204 motor cycles and 281 heavy motor vehicles were registered. There were 4,662 motor accidents or 58 less than in the previous year. Out of this number 112 were fatal accidents resulting in 112 deaths or 26 more than in the previous year.

During the year 1936, 127 persons were killed and 3,191 persons were injured in street accidents as compared with 101 killed and 3,524 injured in the preceding year.

During the year 1936, the number of public and private conveyances other than motor vehicles in the City of Bombay were 3,810 and 2,231 respectively. The public conveyances other than motor vehicles comprised 2,178 victorias, 1,425 labour carts and 207 hand carts.

The total permanent strength of the Force at the close of the year stood at 4,565 as against 4,499 in 1935. The population of the City according to the census of 1931 is 1,161,383 and the proportion of crime to population on these figures stands at 1 to 8·47 as compared with 1 to 8·30 in 1935. The proportion of crime to each police unit stands at 30·04 as compared with 31·09 in 1935.

VILLAGE POLICE

Under the provisions of Bombay Act VIII of 1867, the Village Police are subject to the control and direction of the Commissioner, administered by the different District Magistrates. It is their special duty to prevent crime and public nuisances and to detect and arrest offenders within village limits. They are not stipendiary, but receive perquisites from the inhabitants of the village or rent-free lands or small sums of money from Government. In each village the village Police are under the charge of the police patel, who is often, but by no means always, the person performing the duties of revenue patel. His duties as police patel are to furnish the Magistrate of the district with any returns or information called for, and to keep him constantly informed as to the state of crime and all matters connected with the Village Police and the health and general condition of the community in his village. Under a form of administration which preserves the village as the unit of collection in revenue matters, the institution of Village Police naturally holds an important place.

Special assistance was rendered by the Village Police in 452 cases during the year as against 353 in 1935. 381 village Policemen were rewarded as against 315 in 1935, of whom 150 were rewarded by the grant of swords and Good Service Tickets and the remainder by money to the extent of Rs. 2,046. On the other hand 424 Village Police were reported for neglect of duty of whom 409 were punished departmentally as against 447 and 422 respectively in 1935. 67 Village Police concerned in the commission of cognizable crime were prosecuted and 27 of them were convicted.

With effect from the 1st April 1936, the scheme of serving Magisterial summonses and Police orders in criminal cases through the agency of the Village Police has been introduced in certain districts. Under this system the Village Police are remunerated at Annas 4 for each summons or order served. This system may have its advantages, but it deprives the regular Police of greater movement among the villages: when a Constable was sent out to serve summonses or notices, he had the opportunity also of visiting villages to enquire about crime or other conditions.

GOVERNMENT MALE AND FEMALE WORKHOUSES

By the European Vagrancy Act of 1874, a person of European extraction (which does not include those commonly known as Eurasians or East Indians) found asking for alms or wandering about without any employment or visible means of subsistence is a "vagrant" and may be required by a police officer to appear before a Magistrate. If the latter thinks that the vagrant is not likely to obtain employment he sends him to a Government Workhouse known as the Working Men's Hostel, where he is kept. If the Magistrate is of opinion that the vagrant is likely to get employment in any other place in India he may at his discretion forward the vagrant to such a place.

If after a lapse of a reasonable time in a workhouse no suitable employment is obtainable for the vagrant, the local Government may cause him to be removed from British India at Government expense or may release him.

Penalties are provided by the Act for refusal to go before a Magistrate, for quitting the workhouse without leave etc., two years' imprisonment being the maximum penalty for the latter offence.

The Government Male Workhouse is now administered by the Salvation Army, which receives a grant from Government. Destitute Europeans may go voluntarily to the King Edward's Home which is managed by the Salvation Army and also receives a grant from Government.

The total number of inmates in the Working Men's Hostel during the year ending the 31st December 1936 was 49, out of whom 28 were newly admitted. Eighteen were committed by Magistrates in the Bombay City, six by Magistrates in the mofussil, one from Secunderabad and three from Bangalore.

Twenty-two inmates were discharged during the year. One of them found employment, one was restored to friends in India, six were sent to King Edward's Home, eight were sentenced to imprisonment for refusal of duties, one was discharged having means, one was deported to Czecho-slovakia and two to the United Kingdom and two were sent to Yeravda being insanes. Eight deserted.

The total cost of the hostel to Government was Rs. 9,781 against Rs. 8,969 in the preceding year. The average daily population was 20·3 and the average cost per head per day was Rs. 1-5-1.

The maximum period of residence was 11 months of inmates who left the hostel and 3 years and 9 months of those still in it.

There was no inmate in the Government Female Workhouse during the year against one in the preceding year.

JAILS

The year was one of steady progress and development. On account of the serious communal riots which broke out in Bombay in October 1936, a temporary prison was opened at Worli.

There was a decrease in the admission of convicted prisoners to 25,777 against 27,972 in 1935. An increase was however recorded in the admission of undertrials from 66,783 in 1935 to 72,189 in the year under report, the increase being mainly due to the riots in Bombay and Poona during 1936. There was also an increase in the daily average number from 6,961 in 1935 to 7,079 in 1936, due to the transfer from Sind of long term prisoners owing to overcrowding in the Jails there following the abandonment of the Shikarpur Special Prison. The daily average number of all classes of prisoners—convicts, civil and

undertrials—was 8,944 against 8,541 in 1935. The number of prisoners released under the remission system was 2,187 as against 2,295 in 1935. Five children were admitted against eight in the preceding year. During the year under report the Bombay Children Act, 1924 (except Parts II and III) was made applicable to the whole of the Presidency with effect from March 1936 and instructions for the guidance of Courts and Police were also issued.

The number of adolescent prisoners between the ages of 16 and 21 during 1936 was 1,221 males and 62 females against 1,334 males and 84 females in 1935. The number of persons sentenced to simple imprisonment was 1,847 against 2,026 in 1935. The figures show 181 cases as being avoidable and 1,666 as unavoidable against 447 and 1,579 respectively in 1935. By the latter is meant that the sections under which the persons were convicted do not give any alternative to simple imprisonment. A very large number of persons were convicted under the Railway Act. The number of habituals admitted totalled 2,147 against 2,136 in 1935. The number of prisoners fettered for punishment or security was 3,712 against 3,337 in 1935. Twenty-four prisoners escaped from prisons and sub-jails against 22 in the year before.

Fifty-three cases of prison offences were dealt with by criminal courts as against 51 in 1935. 6,483 prison offences were dealt with by Prison Superintendents against 7,350 in 1935. Corporal punishment was administered in 26 cases compared with 22 in 1935. Special remissions were awarded in 10,831 cases.

The death rate in the jails was 10·2 against 10·6 in 1935 and the sick rate was also less 16·8 against 19·9 in 1935.

The principal industries in jails consist of carpentry, tailoring, blanket weaving, soap, umbrellas, bricks, lime, quinine tablets, tablet pouches, cot tape, gunny cloth, rat traps, dairying, gardening, etc. The net profit from the various jail manufactures during the year under report was Rs. 1·67 lakhs against Rs. 1·56 lakhs in 1935, the increase being mainly due to an increased production. Factories are working to their utmost capacity and the policy of Government in utilising prison labour for its own departments is now producing the desired result. The value of articles supplied from jail factories for use in the various prisons was Rs. 58,965 against Rs. 53,098 in 1935. On a commercial basis this would show a profit of Rs. 11,793 but under the existing arrangements only the price of raw materials is charged.

The gross cost of guarding and maintaining prisoners was Rs. 11·20 lakhs against Rs. 11·03 lakhs in 1935, and the net cost after deducting profits was Rs. 9·53 lakhs against Rs. 9·47 lakhs. The net cost per head was Rs. 107 against Rs. 112 in the preceding year, the fall being due to larger profits during the year. The increase in the total cost was due to an increase in the daily average number of prisoners. The average dietary charge per prisoner in Central and District Prisons was Rs. 26-9-11 against Rs. 28-7-2 in 1935, but if the value of articles supplied by jails to themselves is added, the average cost per prisoner would be Rs. 33-15-1.

BORSTAL SCHOOL, DHARWAR, AND THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY PROBATION AND AFTER-CARE ASSOCIATION

The Annual Reports of the Borstal School, Dharwar, and of the Bombay Presidency Probation and After-Care Association for 1936 show a year of satisfactory progress. The year opened with 401 boys in the School. During the year under report 196 were admitted and 159 discharged, leaving a balance of 438 at the close of the year.

Progress in educational training was maintained. Besides the classes held in vernaculars, the boys were instructed in simple subjects of every day life, and in natural history. An average of 330 boys attended classes. The increase in the teaching staff has been a real help towards adequate training of the inmates.

Industrial training has advanced considerably. The carpentry section has been expanded and the working capacity and efficiency greatly increased. The outturn in 1936 was considerably more than in 1935, and articles of excellent finish were produced. A large number of articles of furniture of folding pattern are now being manufactured. The gross earnings from this industry amounted to Rs. 3,490. With a special weaving instructor, the weaving industry is expanding. Cloth valued at Rs. 1,054 was manufactured and supplied to the School against Rs. 694 in 1935. A Tailor Master was appointed during the year and superior cutting out and stitching is being taught to give lads a useful trade after their release. Earnings from tailoring amounted to Rs. 1,506. Over 120 boys were receiving practical training in vegetable, fruit and flower growing, and in dry farming. The cash realised by sale of vegetables was Rs. 509 against Rs. 221 in the preceding year, while the total of garden realisations amounted to Rs. 3,888.

Physical training receives adequate attention. Quite a number of hockey, cricket, volley ball and foot-ball matches were played against outside teams and most of them were won by the School teams. The School's scout troop obtained second place in a local Scout competition. A second troop was also formed during the year.

There was only one escape during the year against six in the preceding year. There were 302 punishments against 331 in the previous year, the percentage for the year being 70·9 as against 84·7 in 1935. Corporal punishment was inflicted in four cases against ten in the preceding year. Two of them were transferred to the Yeravda Central Prison.

The total cost of maintenance of the School was Rs. 59,523 against Rs. 52,841 in 1935 and the gross cost per boy was Rs. 139-11-7 against Rs. 135-2-3 in the previous year.

The Investigation Committee of the Bombay Presidency Probation and After-Care Association reviewed the cases of 24 lads from the Borstal School who were arrested for breach of license conditions. Of these, ten were sent back to the School and eleven to the care of probation officers after warning, two were abandoned as Borstal failures and the license of one was revoked, the unexpired detention being converted to imprisonment. Ten lads of the Yeravda Industrial School were on license at the opening of the year, and 49 were released during the year making a total of 59 cases as against 23 during the previous year. Out of these 59 lads, 24 completed their period of license satisfactorily, 7 had their licenses revoked for absconding from the supervision of the Association and 28 remained on license at the end of the year.

The work of supervision of the lads released on license from the Willingdon Boys' Home, Bombay and the David Sassoon Industrial School, Bombay, was taken up by the Association during the year under report. Six lads from the former and one from the latter were released on license to the Association. Of these seven lads, three completed their period of license satisfactorily, one absconded but was traced and re-admitted to the School and four were still on license at the end of the year. The proportion of non-official probation officers is still increasing.

CRIMINAL TRIBES

Generally speaking the year under report was a good one. Employment was steady and crimes were fewer. The success of Criminal Tribes settlement work is directly linked with the

supply of employment, and it is pleasant to record that the efforts of managers to find work for their people have met not only with sympathy but with active co-operation on the part of employers.

The total settler population of the Criminal Tribes Settlements as it stood on March 31 last was 8,231 as against 8,183 last year. 112 registered persons with 219 dependents were interned in settlements on the recommendation of the Police. During the year 100 registered persons with 253 dependents were released on license to free colonies and 56 registered persons with 138 dependents were released on license to villages. The population of the free colonies was 7,212 as against 7,099 last year. 2,233 men, 727 women, and 104 half timers were employed in spinning and weaving mills, railway workshops and factories. Other settlers were employed on road-making, metal-breaking, lumbering, field work and casual labour.

The health of settlers and of free colonies has been good. There have been no serious epidemics, except for an out-break of malaria in Hubli town and settlement which occasioned heavy medical expenditure. The treatment of malaria with atebrin in chronic cases in all settlements has been remarkably successful. During the year there were 367 births and 196 deaths in settlements and 318 births and 143 deaths in free colonies. The infant welfare centres and the clinics for school children in Sholapur and Hubli settlements continued to do good work, as also did the V. D. Clinic at Hubli.

Education in settlements is compulsory. Out of the total population of 8,231 in settlements proper, the number of children attending day and night schools are 1,924 and 228 respectively and out of the total population of 7,212 in free colonies the corresponding numbers are 1,336 and 210. Thus the number of children attending schools, per thousand of the population is 261·3 for settlements and 214·4 for free colonies. In addition 344 children from the settlements and free colonies attend outside vernacular schools and 15 children attend English schools. 257 non-criminal tribe children and 31 children belonging to criminal tribes from outside, attend settlement schools.

Eighty-three lads have been apprenticed to various trades, *viz.*, carpentry 51, tailoring 2, weaving 24, motor driving 2, chappal making 3, and printing 1. Training in agriculture is given to 19 boys in agricultural settlements and free colonies.

There are 302 children in the Manual Training Classes in settlement schools. During the year 18 boys have passed the examination in carpentry and drawing and 9 the examination in weaving, held by the Committee of Direction for Technical Education.

During the year 170 persons from settlements were convicted in 162 cases as compared with 273 persons convicted in the previous year in 281 cases. There were 244 absconders at the close of the year as compared with 242 last year.

The Women's Home attached to Hubli settlement for troublesome and immoral women of all settlements has again done well. Nineteen women have been newly admitted into the Home during the year and 21 have been discharged leaving 12 residents at the close of the year.

The Children's Homes at Hubli, Sholapur and Baramati closed the year with 99 inmates, 20 children having been discharged and 31 newly admitted during the year. The total net expenditure on account of the settlements was Rs. 2·69 lakhs as against Rs. 2·79 lakhs in the previous year.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS

THE agricultural season of 1936-37 may, on the whole, be considered to have been fair over a large part of the Presidency. The rainfall received during the year was, in general, unevenly distributed, both as regards periodicity of fall and area and it was characterised by long breaks which had an adverse effect on agricultural operations and crops. In July and August, the rainfall was markedly deficient over almost all the Presidency and caused considerable anxiety in the early part of the season. A long period of dry climatic conditions prevailed at this time and failure of *kharif* crops seemed imminent in parts of North Gujarat and in the eastern districts of the South Deccan and the Karnatak. In other parts of the Presidency the situation was not so acute but was by no means satisfactory. Very opportune and welcome rains in September considerably alleviated the position of the agriculturists especially in the drought affected tracts and the cultivators who had suffered the complete or partial failure of their *kharif* crops, became more hopeful of a good *rabi* cropping season. The dry conditions, which prevailed in October, somewhat falsified these hopes and a second acute situation ensued which, however, was somewhat relieved by substantial rainfall in the month of November. Owing to this uncertain condition of rainfall, combined with other adverse factors such as the prevalence of dry easterly winds, low temperature and heavy attack of insect pests and plant diseases in many tracts, the yield of crops was considerably reduced in a number of districts in which scarcity conditions prevailed necessitating measures for the relief of the agriculturists. Accordingly, the season under review may be characterised as disappointing over large tracts of the presidency and it was only the rainfall received in September and November which saved many districts from almost complete failure of the crops. The prolonged and unfortunate breaks in the rains resulted in considerable scarcity of fodder, grazing and drinking water in numerous centres in North Gujarat, East Deccan and East Karnatak districts.

Gross and Net Cropped Areas.—The gross cropped area decreased by 202,000 acres from 29,373,000 acres in 1935-36 to 29,171,000 acres in 1936-37, while the net cropped area showed a decline by 386,000 acres from 28,540,000 acres to 28,154,000 acres.

Twice Cropped Area.—This, however, showed an appreciable expansion of 184,000 acres, having increased from 833,000 acres to 1,017,000 acres. The increase was noticeable in North Gujarat, North Deccan and West Karnatak where the favourable late rains of the season enabled a second crop to be taken over larger areas than in the previous year.

Temporary Cultivation in Forest Lands and Culturable Waste.—About 121,000 acres of forest lands were given out for temporary cultivation mainly in Ahmednagar (30,000 acres), West Khandesh (28,000 acres), Thana (24,000 acres), Sholapur, (19,000 acres), Nasik (13,000 acres), Surat (4,000 acres), East Khandesh (2,000 acres), and Poona (1,000 acres) districts; while about 109,000 acres of culturable waste mainly in the West Khandesh (58,000 acres), Nasik (17,000 acres), Ahmednagar and Thana (7,000 acres each), Sholapur (5,000 acres), Ahmedabad, Poona and Belgaum (3,000 acres each), Kaira, Surat, East Khandesh, Satara, Kolaba and Kanara (1,000 acres each) districts were similarly dealt with.

Cultivated and Uncultivated Area

(Area in thousands of acres)

Details	1936-37	1935-36
A—Cultivated Area	Acres	Acres
Gross Cropped Area	29,171	29,373
Area cropped more than once	—1,017	—833
Net area cropped	28,154	28,540
Current Fallows	+5,593	+5,147
Total, Cultivated Area ..	33,747	33,687

Details		1936-37	1935-36
B—Uncultivated Area		Acres	Acres
Available for cultivation (culturable waste)		878	861
Not available for cultivation	Forest ..	8,413	8,492
	Others ..	5,683	5,680
Total, Uncultivated Area		14,974	15,033
	Total Area ..	48,721	48,720

NATURE OF THE CROPS

Food Crops.—The area under food crops, i.e., cereals and pulses, sugarcane, and fruits and vegetables, showed a rise of 71,000 acres or 0·3 per cent. over the previous year. Among the *kharif* crops, *bajri* and rice dropped by 1,260,000 acres or 32·7 per cent. and by 141,000 acres or 7·2 per cent. respectively as compared with the previous year. The big fall in the area under *bajri* was due partly to the extended cultivation under *kharif* jowar, but chiefly to insufficient sowing rain over a large part of the Deccan, which is the chief *bajri* tract in the Presidency and also in many places in the Karnatak. The reduction under rice may be attributed to deficient rains at the time of sowing especially in Gujarat, where it was mainly noticeable. The area under *jowar*, which is grown both as a *kharif* and *rabi* crop, showed a considerable extension of 2,098,000 acres or 26·8 per cent. as compared with the previous year. Under the *rabi* crops wheat showed a decrease of 37,000 acres or 2·2 per cent. below the previous year. The area under gram also showed a reduction of 49,000 acres or 7·1 per cent.

Non-food Crops.—The area under non-food crops, which include cotton, tobacco and oil-seeds, showed a decrease of 273,000 acres or 3·0 per cent. below the previous year. The most noticeable decreases were in the areas under cotton, which showed a decline by 449,000 acres, and tobacco which declined by 15,000 acres. Oil-seeds, on the other hand, showed an expansion of 188,000 acres, the increase being attributed mainly to the extended cultivation under groundnut during the year under report. The net result of these variations in the food and non-food crops, was that the total cropped area showed a slight decrease of 202,000 acres or 0·7 per cent. as compared with the previous year.

Cropped Area

(Area in thousands of acres)

Crops	1935-36	1936-37
I—Food Crops	Acres	Acres
(*a*) Cereals and Pulses—		
Jowari	7,843	9,941
Bajri	3,849	2,589
Rice	1,972	1,831
Wheat	1,691	1,654
Gram	690	641
Others	3,802	3,289
Total, Cereals and Pulses ..	19,847	19,945
(*b*) Sugarcane	83	84
(*c*) Other food crops*	430	402
Total, Food Crops ..	20,360	20,431
II—Non-Food Crops		
(*a*) Tobacco	160	145
(*b*) Oilseeds	1,958	2,146
(*c*) Cotton	4,163	3,714
(*d*) Other non-food crops †	2,732	2,735
Total, Non-Food Crops ..	9,013	8,740
Total, Crops ..	29,373	29,171

* These include "Condiments and Spices", "Fruits and Vegetables" and "Miscellaneous food crops".

† These include "Dyes", Drug and Narcotics "excluding Tobacco which has been separately noted, "Fodder" and "Miscellaneous Non-food crops".

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The variations under principal crops are explained below.

Jowari and Bajri.—The following table compares the extent of variations in area under these staple crops in the different divisions of the Bombay Presidency :—

(Area in thousands of acres)

Divisions	Jowari			Bajri		
	Average*	1935-36	1936-37	Average*	1935-36	1936-37
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Gujarat	600	672	721	349	350	331
Deccan	4,737	4,722	6,252	3,274	3,050	2,008
Karnatak	2,590	2,449	2,968	423	449	250
Total ..	7,927	7,843	9,941	4,046	3,849	2,589

* Average of ten years 1921-22 to 1930-31.

Rice.—The area under rice decreased from 1,972,000 acres to 1,831,000 acres. The decrease was chiefly noticeable in Gujarat and may be attributed to deficient rains at the sowing season.

Wheat.—The area under wheat declined by 37,000 acres or 2·2 per cent. The decrease was noticeable in Gujarat (—83,000 acres) and South Deccan (—66,000 acres) as a result of inadequate rains at the time of sowing. Against this there was an increase in the Karnatak (+66,000 acres) and the North Deccan (+46,000 acres) which was due to the beneficial rains in November, as lands, left unsown owing to lack of rain, were brought under cultivation.

Oil-seeds.—The area under oil-seeds increased by 188,000 acres or 9·6 per cent. the groundnut crop (+95,000 acres) being mainly responsible for the increase.

Cotton.—The area under cotton showed a decline of 449,000 acres from 4,163,000 acres to 3,714,000 acres. The decrease was noticeable in all the districts in the Deccan (—207,000 acres) except West Khandesh, and in the Karnatak (—430,000 acres) and may be attributed to inadequate rains at the sowing period.

Irrigated Area

The area irrigated increased from 1,061,000 acres to 1,106,000 acres the increase being mainly noticeable in the Deccan (+52,000 acres) where owing to the unfavourable character of

rains more necessity was felt to resort to the irrigation sources. Gujarat (+4,000 acres) and Konkan (+3,000 acres) a so contributed to the increase. Against this there was a decrease of 15,000 acres in the Karnatak.

Irrigated Area

(Area in thousands of acres)

Details	1935-36	1936-37
Area Irrigated	Acres.	Acres
Irrigated from Government canals	213	259
Irrigated from private canals	87	59
Irrigated from wells	622	667
Irrigated from tanks	113	80
Irrigated from other sources	26	41
Total, Area Irrigated ..	1,061	1,106
Crops Irrigated		
Rice	168	137
Wheat	194	186
Barley	12	13
Jowari	218	290
Bajri	35	50
Maize	23	29
Other cereals and pulses	99	87
Sugarcane	82	82
Other food crops	165	155
Cotton	43	51
Other non-food crops	181	181
Total, Crops Irrigated ..	1,220	1,261

Note.—The difference in totals of area irrigated and crops irrigated is due to the inclusion in the latter of the area cropped more than once.

Outturn of Crops.—The following table compares the average under food grain crops (Cereals and Pulses) in each division

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of the Bombay Presidency and their approximate outturn in tons during the year under report with similar statistics for the two preceding years :—

Division	Area in thousands of acres			Outturn in thousands of tons		
	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Tons	Tons	Tons
Gujarat	2,398	2,466	2,126	746	758	485
Deccan	11,356	11,121	11,219	2,056	2,070	1,805
Karnatak	4,794	4,657	4,995	921	831	780
Konkan	1,601	1,603	1,605	694	656	605
Total ..	20,149	19,847	19,945	4,417	4,315	3,675

Condition of the Agricultural Population.—The unsatisfactory nature of the season was reflected in the considerable drop in the estimated outturn of food grain crops, in spite of a slight increase in the area sown. The average outturn of grain crops per acre was considerably lower than in the previous year. This decrease is attributable to the irregular and scanty rainfall which occurred over large tracts of the Presidency. As a result, shortage of drinking water prevailed and fodder and grazing presented serious difficulty in these areas. There was also considerable migration of cattle from these tracts to more favourable localities and numerous cattle were disposed of at low prices by the cultivators who were unable to maintain them. Government granted remissions and suspensions, distributed tagavi loans and doles and opened scarcity works to relieve the situation. Although the depression in the prices of agricultural produce persisted during the year under report, slight signs of improvement were visible both in food and cash crops in most important centres of the Presidency. Wages of agricultural labour remained almost stationary except during the scarcity period when they went down in some parts.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FEATURES OF THE YEAR

During the year under report, the district activities of the Agricultural Department in connection with demonstration and propaganda, seed distribution, land improvement, crop

protection etc., continued to develop in almost every district. A notable feature of this work was the increased interest taken by the cultivators in land improvement schemes whereby, by simple but scientific methods of bunding and the construction of field embankments, cultivated lands were protected from permanent damage and loss by soil erosion. In Nasik District, an area of 3,250 acres was protected in this way and in the South-Central Division, over 70 minor bunding projects were framed and carried out with the assistance of the staff of the Department involving 1,804 acres of land. Similar work made rapid progress in certain Karnatak Districts. The extension of improved varieties of crops in the districts is another aspect of departmental activity which is increasing very rapidly year by year. In Khandesh, the newly evolved "Jarila" cotton proved most successful in the districts as it fulfilled a long-felt want in providing the cotton-growers with a wilt-resistant stapled cotton with as good an outturn and ginning percentage as the inferior *deshi* varieties. A seed multiplication and extension scheme has been sanctioned by the Indian Central Cotton Committee for the increased expansion of the area under "Jarila" cotton. In the Southern Division, the areas under Jayawant and Gadag No. 1 cottons reached three lakhs and one lakh acres, respectively, and the system of auction sales of kapas, facilitated the preservation of pure seed and ensured better prices for the growers. In Gujerat, 1027 A.L.F. and B. D. 8 cottons continued to be distributed widely by the Department but, in this tract in particular, future developments must depend on the improvement of the marketing organization in order to ensure an adequate premium to the growers of cottons with superior spinning qualities. Among other crops, noteworthy progress was made in the extension of improved strains of paddy in the Southern Division where 24,386 acres of high yielding rice varieties, evolved at the Mugad and Kumpta farms, were grown in Dharwar, Belgaum and Kanara Districts. In Khandesh and Nasik districts, the area under improved wheat varieties increased from 4,000 to 15,000 acres with conspicuous success. The shortage of rainfall, which prevailed over large areas of the Presidency during the year under report, has focussed attention on the work which is being done to evolve suitable dry farming methods of cultivation at Sholapur and Bijapur. These methods were fully tested at Mohol Farm where the dry farming methods resulted in an average outturn of 367 lbs. grain and 1,088 lbs. fodder from a jowar area of 43 acres. The max mum yields obtained from the

dry farming plots were 1,017 lbs. grain and 2,080 lbs. fodder per acre. At Sholapur and Bijapur, the application of the results of the dry farming research work to ordinary cultivation increased yields of grain and fodder up to approximately 150 per cent. over the local cultivators' outturn. The organization of gun-clubs for the protection of cultivators' crops from damage by wild animals made great progress, especially in the Southern Division where over 85,000 acres of crops were protected by these organizations. In Kanara District, 3,516 acres of betel nut palms were sprayed with Bordeaux mixture as a precaution against *koleroga* disease. The estimated benefit to the gardeners is Rs. 35 per acre. The district staff of the Department has recently been concentrating upon the improvement of village manure supplies by the introduction of better methods of conservation and of compost manufacture. This work has now been taken up by the agriculturists in several areas. In connection with live-stock, the Cattle Conference held at Simla early in 1937, was of outstanding importance and the formation of a Livestock Improvement Association is under consideration. On the marketing side, grade specifications for grapes, tobacco, hides and skins and oranges were notified during the year and an experimental scheme for the grading of Nasik grapes was started under the supervision of an expert grader lent by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India.

In the course of his scientific investigations into the problems of wilt resistence in cotton, the Plant Pathologist to Government has obtained almost wilt-immune strains in "Kumpta," "B. D. 8" and "Million Dollar" cotton varieties. Very valuable results were also obtained in research work on wilt immunity in sann hemp and *Lathyrus sativus*. Definite control measures were worked out for the diseases of tobacco seed-beds in Kaira district. At the sugarcane research station, Padegaon, the work of soil classification was almost completed and it was greatly appreciated by the eminent Soil Physicist, Sir John Russell, when he visited the station. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has sanctioned the extension of the scheme for a further period of three years. At the Poona Agricultural College and on practically all the Government farms in the Presidency, much experimental work on the cultivation, agronomy and manuring of various crops was carried out and successful results obtained over a number of years were tested in the districts and incorporated in the propaganda work of the district staff. A successful beginning was made

with the development of irrigation farming in Kolaba district on the tail-waters of the Tata Hydro-electric Project at Khopoli where an experimental pumping plant was erected from funds provided from village uplift grants.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Scientific research work towards the improvement of the materials and methods of agriculture, and in the direction of the solution of agricultural problems, forms one of the most important activities of the Department of Agriculture. This work is carried on at numerous Government research stations and experimental farms throughout the Presidency and at the Poona Agricultural College. About thirty per cent. of the total annual budget grants of the Department are devoted to scientific research and, in addition, financial assistance has been made available to approved schemes of investigation by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Sir Sassoon David Trust Fund.

The research work in hand includes major fundamental research schemes, largely devoted to soil and irrigation problems, which are in progress at Padegaon, under the Deccan Sugarcane Research Scheme and at Sholapur and Bijapur, under the Dry Farming Research Scheme. These two schemes, one in the irrigated tracts and the other in the scarcity areas, are of basic importance to very divergent types of agriculture and are definitely of the nature of fundamental scientific investigation into major soil and irrigation problems. Other schemes deal with scientific work on crop improvement, either by botanical research or by control of insect pests and plant diseases, livestock research work, economic problems of agriculture and, finally, miscellaneous items of scientific investigation, e.g. cold storage research work, agricultural engineering, etc.

AGRICULTURAL PROPAGANDA

The success of scientific research work in agricultural investigations mark the solution of one problem but, at the same time, represent the creation of another. Unless such results can be widely explained and demonstrated in the districts and on the fields of the cultivators who will be benefited by their adoption, they must remain barren and unfruitful. The primary object of all agricultural propaganda is to induce and

influence the unit cultivator by education, demonstration and example, to adopt improved agricultural methods and materials which, sooner or later, will result in increased profits. Non-official help in agricultural propaganda and extension work has greatly contributed to the improvement of agricultural practice in many tracts.

Seed Supply.—The organisation of the supply of new and improved varieties of seed is one of the major services which the Department is rendering to agriculture. During the year under report, there were six organised seed distribution schemes for improved varieties of cotton, in which financial assistance was given by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.

The Surat Seed Distribution and Extension Scheme deals with the distribution and extension of the improved cotton variety 1027 A.L.F. in Surat district. During the year, 26·43 lakhs lbs. of seed were handled by the Department, of which about three-fifths were distributed outside the presidency. The area under departmental control and grown with pure 1027 A.L.F. was nearly 26,000 acres.

The B. D. 8 Seed Distribution and Extension Scheme is devoted to the distribution and extension of the high-yielding and wilt-resistant strain of improved cotton, i.e. B. D. 8 in Broach district. From a controlled area of 1,000 acres, 4·57 lakhs lbs. of seed were obtained, together with 615 bales of B. D. 8 lint. The latter were sold at a premium varying from Rs. 37 to Rs. 53 per khandy. About 2 lakhs lbs. of seed were distributed over an area of 20,000 acres. Owing to uncontrolled and indiscriminate mixing of B. D. 8 with inferior local cotton, this improved variety failed to obtain an adequate premium, especially towards the end of the season. Attempts are now being made to market B. D. 8 pure under a departmental mark and guarantee so as to fetch higher prices to its growers.

Revised Jayawant and Gadag No. 1 Seed Distribution and Extension Scheme.—The reserved area under pure Jayawant at six centres was nearly 25,000 acres and 15·69 lakhs lbs. of seed were stocked, of which 8·63 lakhs lbs. were distributed by departmental agents. Gadag No. 1 seed was produced on nearly 23,000 acres at two centres and 8·44 lakhs lbs. of pure seed were distributed. The total areas grown with Jayawant and Gadag No. 1 cottons during the year under report were about three lakhs and one lakh acres respectively.

Banilla Seed Distribution and Extension Scheme, Khandesh.—During the year 8·23 lakhs lbs. of seed, sufficient for nearly 33,000 acres, were distributed. The total estimated area under

Banilla seed in Khandesh was 66,000 acres, of which 32,885 acres were under departmental seed and the remainder covered by natural spread.

The multiplication and distribution of pure seed of improved varieties of all crops, other than cotton, were carried out solely by departmental agency, assisted, in some places, by co-operative organizations, such as Taluka Development Associations.

Premium Bulls.—The rearing, selection and distribution of premium bulls in selected cattle-breeding tracts of the Presidency continued to be the major contribution of the Livestock Section of the Agricultural Department to cattle improvement in the Presidency. During the year 247 bulls were put out.

Rural Uplift.—During the year under report, the Department of Agriculture continued to take a prominent part in the initiation, organization and supervision of schemes for rural uplift and village improvement in all parts of the Presidency. This work was largely financed by grants from the Government of India, the bulk of which were placed at the disposal of the Collectors of various districts.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The College of Agriculture, Poona.—The Poona Agricultural College is the only institution in the Bombay Presidency devoted to higher agricultural education in addition to scientific research work and the supply of expert advice to agriculturists on agricultural problems. During the year under report, the number of students, who attended the College, showed no diminution. The new curricula at the College were in full force, the first batch of B.Sc. (Agric.) students passing out during the year under report. The last examination for the old B.Ag. degree was held during the year. Special courses were, as usual, held at the College, the number of students attending being 24, as compared with 15 in the previous year, indicating that the demand for such specialized practical training is increasing.

Vernacular Agricultural Schools.—The two vernacular agricultural schools at Devi-hosur and Dhulia continued to work satisfactorily.

A training class for oil-engine mechanics was conducted by the Agricultural Engineer to Government. Twenty-four applications for admission were received of which thirteen students were admitted and received special training in oil engine management and care. Twelve students attended the practical training class in horticulture at the Ganeshkhind

Fruit Experimental Station, Kirkee, and, in addition, district classes in horticulture were organized by the Horticulturist to Government at Satara, Gokak, Palghar, Malsiras and Dahigaon and attended by over 500 pupils.

FINANCE.—The expenditure of the Agricultural Department during the year under report was Rs. 11·43 lakhs as against Rs. 11·70 lakhs in the preceding year. The receipts were Rs. 2·08 lakhs as compared with Rs. 2·07 lakhs in the previous year. Grants were also received from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the Indian Central Cotton Committee, and the Sir Sassoon David Trust Fund.

ADVANCES TO CULTIVATORS

Northern Division.—During the year ending 30th September 1937 the amount advanced as takavi totalled Rs. 1·21 lakhs as against Rs. 8,000 in the preceding year. The year opened with an outstanding balance of Rs. 33·92 lakhs. The total demand was Rs. 10·54 lakhs, of which Rs. 4·79 lakhs were collected, Rs. 2·17 lakhs suspended and Rs. 37,533 written off. The unauthorised balance was Rs. 3·20 lakhs, Ahmedabad district being responsible for nearly Rs. 99,000 and Broach and Panch Mahals for Rs. 1·97 lakhs. In Ahmedabad district, the unauthorised arrears were mostly in the talukdari villages of Dhandhuka and Viramgam talukas and the Sanand Mahal. In Broach and Panch Mahals district the arrears largely pertain to Wagra taluka, where the wheat crop failed, and Godhra and Dohad talukas, where scarcity conditions prevailed. Coercive measures were not adopted for the recovery of unauthorised arrears.

Central Division.—The total amount of takavi advanced during the year was Rs. 6·45 lakhs as against Rs. 2·98 lakhs in the previous year. Owing to the scarcity conditions prevailing in parts of Ahmednagar, Poona, Nasik and Sholapur districts takavi was freely advanced for the purchase of grass, seed and agricultural implements and for deepening wells. Loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act were granted at the special concessional rate of interest of 8 pies in the rupee. The year opened with an outstanding balance of Rs. 9·72 lakhs. The total demand was Rs. 4·98 lakhs, of which Rs. 2·65 lakhs were recovered, Rs. 1·79 lakhs suspended and about Rs. 3,000 written off. The unauthorised arrears amounted to about Rs. 56,000, Admednagar district alone being responsible for about Rs. 43,000, but no coercive measures were adopted for the recovery thereof.

Southern Division.—During the year under report Rs. 4·82 lakhs were granted as takavi as against Rs. 90,000 in the preceding year. Owing to scarcity conditions in parts of Bijapur district Rs. 3·90 lakhs were advanced in that district alone. The outstanding balance was Rs. 13·02 lakhs, of which Rs. 1·84 lakhs were collected, Rs. 1·63 lakhs suspended and about Rs. 2,000 written off. Unauthorised arrears amounted to Rs. 2·16 lakhs ; but coercive measures were not adopted for their recovery. In addition to the grants made in the ordinary way loans were given for the purchase of sprayers and chemicals in order to combat the Koleroga disease of betelnut in parts of Kanara district and for tractor ploughing in parts of Dharwar district.

NOTE ON THE WEATHER

I—*The period—April and May* 1936.—Rainfall was in large defect throughout the Presidency in April. In May rainfall was normal in the Bombay Deccan, in slight defect in the Konkan and in large defect in Gujarat. Humidity was generally normal. Both the maximum and minimum temperatures were generally normal.

II—*The monsoon period—June-September* 1936.—The monsoon strengthened slightly in the Konkan early in June, and although it extended up to Bombay during the first week, it was not till the 12th that it was really established there. Thus, during the first fortnight, the monsoon was weak even on the coast, while in the Bombay Deccan it caused only occasional thunder-showers. Early in the third week, however, it strengthened on the west coast and extending into the interior of the Presidency caused widespread rainfall in the Bombay Deccan and Gujarat in the last ten days of the month. During July the monsoon was generally weak. Although there was rain in the Konkan on almost all the days of the month, the amounts were small and the total rainfall of the month was only two-thirds of the normal fall. In the Bombay Deccan the activity of the monsoon was mostly confined to the western districts and rainfall was in large defect in the eastern districts. In Gujarat the monsoon was fairly active in the first week, but weakened thereafter and it was only in the last week of the month that fairly widespread rain again fell on a few days. August was also characterised by a weak monsoon. In the first week of the month the monsoon was fairly active in the Konkan and the Bombay Deccan. It weakened, however, after the 10th, but had

a short lived revival in the latter half of the third week, when there was fairly widespread rain in the Bombay Deccan and Gujarat. In the latter area this was the only period when there was appreciable rain. After this the monsoon remained generally weak over the presidency. There was a revival in the activity of the monsoon in the beginning of September, and under the influence of a small depression over Central India widespread rain fell in Gujarat and the north Bombay Deccan on the 5th and 6th. Another depression from the Bay caused widespread and locally heavy rain in Gujarat, the north Bombay Deccan and the Konkan between the 8th and 11th. The general weakening of the monsoon which set in about the end of the second week was the precursor of its withdrawal from the country a few days later. Thunderstorms characteristic of the transition period commenced in the Peninsula in the middle of the third week, and in the last week, by their increased activity, parts of the Bombay Deccan made up to some extent the deficiency of rainfall in the monsoon proper.

The following table gives the actual rainfall and its percentage departure from normal in each of the sub-divisions for the whole season :—

Sub-division	Season : June to September	
	Actual Inches	Departure Per cent.
Gujarat	21·52	—30
Konkan	94·75	—6
Bombay Deccan	17·93	—25

Taking the season as a whole the rainfall was normal in the Konkan and in slight to moderate defect in the remaining divisions. Humidity was generally normal except in August when it was in slight defect in Gujarat. Both the maximum and minimum temperatures were generally normal except in Gujarat in August where maximum alone was above normal.

III—*The retreating monsoon period—October to December* 1936.—The rainfall was in moderate to large defect in all the sub-divisions in October, and in large defect in December. In November, on the other hand, the total rainfall was 11 times the normal in Gujarat, 4½ times the normal in the Bombay Deccan and 3 times the normal in the Konkan. The excess in Gujarat is the highest on record since 1875. Humidity was in defect in October and in excess in November in Gujarat and the Bombay Deccan. Maximum temperature was above normal in the Bombay Deccan in October, while minimum

temperature was above normal throughout the Presidency in November.

IV—*The period—January to March* 1937.—There was no rain in January throughout the Presidency nor in Gujarat in March. On the other hand, rainfall was in moderate to large excess generally in February and in large excess in the Konkan in March. Humidity was in defect in Gujarat and the Bombay Deccan in January and March, and in defect in the Konkan in January. Both the maximum and minimum temperatures were generally normal except in Gujarat where minimum temperature was below normal in January and above normal in February.

PRICES

RETAIL PRICES

There was no appreciable change in the retail prices of foodstuffs as compared with the previous year. Among food grains, there was an upward tendency in the prices of rice, wheat, jowari, bajri and gram; while turdal moved in the reverse direction. Among other foodstuffs, there was a noticeable improvement in the price of cocoanut oil, but refined sugar, gul, tea, potatoes, onions, ghee and salt slumped still further. It is important to note that although the downward trend in the prices of foodstuffs had been checked during the period under review, it was the seventh consecutive year of low prices. As a consequence of this, there was considerable contraction in the purchasing power of the agriculturists of the Presidency and their economic condition did not show any improvement.

Northern Division.—The prices of foodstuffs except refined sugar and gul did not show any appreciable variations from those prevailing during the year 1935–36. The prices of rice, wheat, gram, turdal and cocoanut oil were higher, while those of refined sugar, gul, potatoes and onions were lower in the majority of the districts. In the Kaira district, the price of bajri which is the staple food of the district, advanced from 15 seers to 10 seers a rupee. The slight rise in the prices of foodstuffs is reported to be due to insufficient yield of the crops owing to scarcity of rains. In Broach and Panchmahals, the paddy crop was much affected on account of deficient rainfall. The rise in the prices of other foodstuffs in Surat was reported to be due to insufficient stock. In the Thana district, the price of Nagli, which is the staple food of the people, showed a further tendency to decline for lack of sufficient local demand owing to the growing tendency among the poor people to consume rice in larger quantities. There was no improvement in the prices of foodstuffs, except rice and paddy which recorded a slight rise.

Owing to low level of prices a rebate of three annas in land revenue was given by Government.

Central Division.—All the districts in this division reported a substantial fall in the prices of raw sugar (gul) and potatoes and an appreciable rise in the prices of wheat, gram and cocoanut oil. Rice, jowari, bajri and salt were dearer and turdal, refined sugar, tea and onions were cheaper in the majority of the districts. The rise in the prices of foodstuffs in the Nasik district is reported to be due to scanty and delayed rainfall. In Ahmednagar district, the prices of foodgrains rose to a considerable extent in spite of the restrictions imposed on the export of staple foodgrains owing to scarcity conditions in the district. It was reported from Poona that the price of staple foodgrains rose steadily as the season advanced owing to the failure of rains in the Deshi part of the district but there was no dearth of grain in any part. The upward trend of prices in the Satara district helped the agriculturists to improve their economic condition to some extent.

Southern Division.—The prices of foodgrains, except gram which showed an improvement in the majority of the districts, did not show any marked variations in the prices during 1936-37. Among the other food articles, cocoanut oil recorded a substantial increase and refined sugar and gul a perceptible decrease. Tea, salt, ghee, potatoes and onions were cheaper in the majority of the districts. The rise in the prices of jowar, bajri and wheat in the Bijapur district was due to the scarcity conditions in the district. The price of Kadbi and groundnuts showed an improvement, but the price of cotton, which is the main money crop, did not show any appreciable change during the year. It is reported from Dharwar that the fall in the price of jowari was due to better outturn during the year. There was an appreciable fall in the price of cotton. The ryots kept the stock off the market in the hope that prices would improve later, but their hopes were not realised as there was a further slump in price at the close of the season owing to optimistic reports about the cotton crop in America. In Kanara, there was a rise in the price of betelnut and cardamom. In Kolaba the price of rice straw varied between Rs. 1-4-0 and Rs. 1-8-0 per 100 bundles except in Mangaon, Panwel and Karjat talukas where it rose to Rs. 3-0-0 to Rs. 4-0-0 during the year. There

was no appreciable rise in the prices of foodstuffs, except that in the price of rice in the Ratnagiri district.

The following table gives the index numbers of retail prices of six foodgrains and eleven other food articles in each of the divisions in the Presidency for the years 1935–36 and 1936–37 :—

Unweighted index numbers of retail prices of seventeen food articles in each of the Divisions in the Bombay Presidency for the years 1935–36 *and* 1936–37 *with the average prices during* 1926–27 = 100

(*Note.*—The prices used in compiling the index numbers are those given in the *Bombay Government Gazette* and are for the grades most commonly used by persons of the clerical class in receipt of not more than Rs. 50 per mensem.)

Articles	Index numbers for							
	Northern Division		Central Division		Southern Division		Bombay City	
	1935–36	1936–37	1935–36	1936–37	1935–36	1936–37	1935–36	1936–37
Rice ..	55	59	53	56	58	58	62	63
Wheat ..	52	56	47	58	53	54	54	57
Jowari ..	53	54	52	61	64	62	59	63
Bajri ..	55	56	52	59	58	54	53	54
Gram ..	52	57	52	59	62	65	51	54
Turdal ..	57	59	57	57	65	66	63	59
Sugar (refined) ..	80	74	79	73	78	73	84	83
Sugar (raw) ..	66	58	69	46	67	51	56	62
Tea ..	56	52	64	61	62	56	71	71
Salt ..	110	110	95	101	112	108	96	81
Beef ..	86	85	75	74	80	80	62	61
Mutton ..	73	70	73	72	72	71	73	73
Milk ..	65	64	70	68	72	71	73	76
Ghee ..	69	71	61	61	67	63	78	77
Potatoes ..	62	62	62	53	66	57	65	67
Onions ..	55	53	39	42	45	42	33	41
Cocoanut Oil ..	55	59	46	55	53	66	56	51

Working Class Cost of Living.—The Bombay working class cost of living index number, with the average prices for the year ended June 1934 equated to 100, stood at 102 in 1936-37 as against 101 in 1935-36. The Ahmedabad working class cost of living index number, with the average prices for the year ended July 1927 equal to 100, was 72 as compared with 71 in 1935-36. The Sholapur working class cost of living index number, with the average prices for the year ended January 1928 equal to 100, was 72, being one point higher than in 1935-36.

Working Class Cost of Living Index numbers for Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur by groups

Groups	Bombay (Average prices from July 1933 to June 1934=100)		Ahmedabad (Average prices from August 1926 to July 1927=100)		Sholapur (Average prices from February 1927 to January 1928=100)	
	1935-36	1936-37	1935-36	1936-37	1935-36	1936-37
Food	105	108	60	62	62	65
Fuel and lighting ..	102	100	81	78	98	95
Clothing	87	84	71	73	65	66
House-rent	100	100	107	107	107	107
Miscellaneous ..	97	96	99	100	67	66
Cost of living	101	102	71	72	71	72

WHOLESALE PRICE

The wholesale prices index number for Bombay City, on base July 1914 equal to 100, stood at 99, being one point higher than in the previous year. The " All Food " index number remained stationary at 96 while the " All non-food " index number recorded a rise of two points. With the exception of cereals, oilseeds, raw cotton and metals which advanced by 6, 1, 2 and 11 points respectively, all the other groups included in the index registered a fall. The variations in the index numbers of the different groups included in the Bombay wholesale prices index number are set out in the following table.

Group Index numbers of Wholesale Prices in Bombay City

(July 1914 = 100)

Groups	Annual average for 1935–36	Annual average for 1936–37	Increase (+) or decrease (—) in points in 1936–37 over or below 1935–36
Cereals	81	87	+6
Pulses	77	76	—1
Sugar	108	101	—7
Other food	135	124	—11
All food	96	96	....
Oil seeds	97	98	+1
Cotton, Raw	91	93	+2
Cotton manufactures	97	95	—2
Other textiles	77	75	—2
Hides and skins	99	99	....
Metals	106	117	+11
Other raw and manufactured articles	115	112	—3
All non-foods	99	101	+2
All articles	98	99	+1

In Broach, the price of raw cotton ranged from Rs. 90 to Rs. 115 in all the talukas except Broach where it ranged from Rs. 100 to Rs.120 per bhar as against Rs. 85 to Rs.100 per bhar in all the talukas except Ankleshwar where it ranged from Rs. 100 to Rs. 120 per bhar during the last year. At Surat, the price of raw cotton was Rs. 23–3–0 per Bengalee maund as compared

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with Rs. 21-7-4 in 1935-36. The price per candy of coarse paddy rose from Rs. 25—33 to Rs. 30—40 and that of Kolamba paddy from Rs. 30—40 to Rs. 33—45 in the Kolaba district except in Karjat taluka.

MOFUSSIL LABOUR AND WAGES

The purchasing power of the rupee based on the working class cost of living index number for Bombay City, taken at 16 annas for the pre-war year decreased from 15 annas 10 pies in the year 1935 to 15 annas 8 pies in 1936. Expressed in terms of percentages the cost of living index number in 1936 was two points higher than in July 1914 and one point higher than in 1935. The cost of living index number for Ahmedabad City (with the average prices for the year ending July 1927 as base) was 71 in 1936, the same as in the last year. The index number for Sholapur City (with the average prices for the year ended January 1928 = 100) was 71 in 1936.

Taking the Province as a whole, the downward trend in the level of agricultural and mofussil non-factory rates of wages, which was noticeable in 1935, continued during the year 1936 except in the case of field labour in the rural areas where it remained stationary. The reports received from the various district officers in the Province indicate that despite the scarcity of rains in certain areas the general level of rates of wages paid to different kinds of agricultural labour remained more or less steady during the year, and where there were any fluctuations these were within narrow limits. The statistics of agricultural wages compiled by the Labour Office on the basis of the monthly returns made by all the talukas in the Province show that as compared with the previous year there was a decline in the level of rates of wages of all the three classes of labour—skilled, ordinary and field—in rural as well as in urban areas except in the case of field labour in the rural areas where the wages were steady throughout the year. A study of the figures by divisions shows that there was a slight increase in the wages of field and ordinary labour in the rural areas of the Northern Division and of ordinary labour in the urban areas of the Southern Division. Moreover, the fall in rates of wages of the field and ordinary labour in the rural areas and of the skilled labour in the urban areas of the Southern Division was rather slight, while it was very pronounced in the case of field and ordinary labour in the urban areas and for skilled labour in rural areas of the Northern Division and for field labour in the urban areas in the Central Division. There was a decrease of about nine per cent. in the

wages of ordinary labour in the rural areas of the Central Division. In all the other cases the average daily rates decreased but the decline was less than seven per cent. The following table gives the index numbers of average daily rates of wages of all classes of labour in 1936 as compared with the previous year :—

Index numbers of average daily rates of wages in 1936
(with 1935 wages as 100)

Division.	1935=100					
	Field labour		Unskilled (ordinary labour)		Skilled labour	
	Urban Areas	Rural Areas	Urban Areas	Rural Areas	Urban Areas	Rural Areas
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	89	107	89	103	94	89
Central Division ..	89	96	95	91	93	94
Southern Division ..	95	98	104	97	97	94
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	99	109	101	103	97	89
Deccan Circle ..	93	96	95	90	94	93
Konkan Circle ..	80	99	86	99	87	93
Province as a whole ..	92	100	94	96	94	92

Although there was a slight fall in the rates of wages the general economic condition of the labouring classes was on the whole satisfactory as the prices of food stuffs and other necessaries of life remained almost unchanged. There has been no noticeable improvement in the standard of life of the labourers and the spread of primary education does not still appear to have exerted any influence on the labour market in the rural areas.

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The inter-district migration of agricultural labour, which has been facilitated by the development of easy and quick means of transport, continued as usual. Due to the local train service many people from Kalyan, Thana and Bassein were attracted to Bombay City in the hope of earning higher wages. In the Bhiwandi taluka of the Thana district some outside labour had to be imported during the agricultural operations and in the weaving and brick industries during the fair season.

Agricultural Labour.—The average daily rates of wages of field (agricultural) labour in the Province as a whole declined from Re. 0-6-1 to Re. 0-5-7 in the urban areas, while those in the rural areas remained steady. The level of rates of wages paid to agricultural labour in the urban areas declined in all the divisions but the fall was much less in the Southern Division than in the Northern and Central divisions. In the rural areas also the rates of wages registered a decrease, except in the Northern Division, where there was a rise of about four pies in the daily rate. In the Northern Division, owing to scarcity of rains, there was less demand for this kind of labour in the Jhalod Mahal in the Broach and Panch Mahals District and Chorasi, Bardoli, Jalalpore and Chikhli talukas in the Surat district.

In the Thana district most of the labourers such as *Kunbis*, *Kathodis*, *Warlis* and *Mahars* work in fields during the monsoon and are employed in fair season in lime, brick and charcoal kilns, rice mills, match factories and salt works. Some of the labourers ply their carts on hire for carrying paddy, coal, rice straw, timber, etc. In the Bhiwandi taluka local labour could not cope with the demand in the cultivating season and upcountry labour had to be imported for finishing the work. They were paid Re. 0-6-0 per day and supplied with ration.

In the Southern Division also owing to draught in the Bijapur district there was no keen demand for labour and Government and Local Boards had to open famine works in the affected centres, while tagai loans were also advanced in deserving cases. In the Kolaba district the rates varied between Re. 0-4-0 to Re. 0-6-0 per day except at Uran where, owing to its proximity to Bombay, the agricultural labour could secure a rate of Re. 0-6-0 to Re. 0-8-0 per day. In the Central Division the rates of wages remained almost steady except in the Ahmednagar and Nasik districts where they were slightly affected owing to scarcity of rains. In the Poona district the sugar industry in the irrigated tracts gave adequate employment to a number of workers as usual. In the Sirur peta and Indapur taluka,

however, scarcity had to be declared and relief works were opened by Government for providing employment to the needy workers. Baglan and Nandgaon talukas of the Nasik district were also affected by deficiency of rains.

The following table gives the average daily rates of wages of agricultural labour in urban and rural areas by Divisions and Economic circles and for the whole Province for the years 1913, 1935 and 1936 :—

Average daily rates of wages of Agricultural (Field) Labour

Divisions	Daily average wages in					
	1913		1935		1936	
	Urban Areas	Rural Areas	Urban Areas	Rural Areas	Urban Areas	Rural Areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 4 9	0 3 9	0 7 0	0 5 1	0 6 3	0 5 5
Central Division ..	0 5 0	0 4 3	0 6 3	0 4 8	0 5 7	0 4 6
Southern Division ..	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 5 2	0 4 6	0 4 11	0 4 5
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 4 6	0 3 9	0 6 5	0 4 10	0 6 4	0 5 3
Deccan Circle ..	0 4 6	0 4 0	0 5 7	0 4 5	0 5 2	0 4 3
Konkan Circle ..	0 5 3	0 4 6	0 7 8	0 6 0	0 6 2	0 5 11
Province as a whole ..	0 4 9	0 4 0	0 6 1	0 4 9	0 5 7	0 4 9

Unskilled (Ordinary) Labour.—The average daily rates of wages for ordinary labour both in urban and rural areas declined during the year 1936 as compared with the previous year, the percentage decreases being six and four respectively. In the rural areas of the Northern Division and urban areas of the Southern Division only did the average daily rate record an increase as compared with the previous year, the other areas recording a slight decrease. The fall was more pronounced in the urban areas of the Northern Division and amounted to as much as 11 per cent.

In the Northern Division there was no appreciable change in the rates of wages for this class of labour except in the Eastern part of the Panch Mahals sub-division and the Jhalod Mahal where they were affected by shortage of rains. In the Thana District, *Kathodis* and *Warlis* from Vada, Shahapur and Murbad were employed by forest contractors for cutting timber and manufacturing coal.

In the Central Division owing to deficiency of rains there was a fall in the rates of wages in the Ahmednagar and Sholapur districts, but they remained practically steady in the other districts. Labour in East Khandesh found employment in the cotton spinning mills, and ginning factories. A small proportion was also employed on the railways and in electric power houses, oil mills, and building works. In the West Khandesh timber traffic which starts at the close of the agricultural operations provided employment as usual to a large number of Bhills and allied castes in the Nawapur Peta and Taloda Taluka. This kind of labour is very much useful to the timber contractors in bringing forest produce from the jungle to the railway stations. Poona being in close communication with Bombay, the seat of Government for nearly half the year, the headquarters of the Southern Army and the Poona (Independent) Brigade area, this kind of labour in the district could get employment throughout the year. Moreover, as Poona City is developing year by year it provides sufficient employment in connection with its manifold activities such as the construction of buildings, laying out of new roads, drainage works, etc. The ammunition factory at Kirkee, the Government workshops at Dapuri, the Reay Paper Mills at Mundhwa, and the G. I. P. Railway workshops and the Tata works at various places also provided employment to a number of persons from the adjoining villages. In the Nasik District the Railway workshops at Nandgaon and Manmad, the Security Printing Press, the Government Central Distillery and the Nasik Deolali Electric Supply Company provided employment for a large number of labourers. A fair amount of labour found employment in the ginning and pressing factories at Malegaon, Satana and Nandgaon. The *Bidi* workshops at Sinnar also provided employment to a large section of local labour.

In the Southern Division, except for slight variations, the rates of wages remained steady. In the Bijapur District, owing to a poor crop cotton ginning and pressing factories provided employment to a comparatively smaller number of hands.

The following table shows the average daily rates of wages of unskilled (ordinary) labour in the same way as for agricultural labour :—

Average daily rates of wages of unskilled (ordinary) labour

Divisions	Daily average wages in											
	1913				1935				1936			
	Urban Areas			Rural Areas			Urban Areas			Rural Areas		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Political Divisions—												
Northern Division ..	0	5	3	0	4	3	0	9	11	0	6	5	0	8	10	0	6	7
Central Division ..	0	5	9	0	4	6	0	6	10	0	5	5	0	6	6	0	4	11
Southern Division ..	0	5	9	0	4	9	0	6	4	0	5	4	0	6	7	0	5	2
Economic Circles—												
Gujarat Circle ..	0	5	3	0	4	0	0	8	8	0	6	0	0	8	9	0	6	2
Deccan Circle ..	0	5	9	0	4	6	0	6	9	0	5	3	0	6	5	0	4	9
Konkan Circle ..	0	6	3	0	5	3	0	8	11	0	6	8	0	7	8	0	6	7
Province as a whole ..	0	5	9	0	4	6	0	7	6	0	5	8	0	7	1	0	5	5

Skilled Labour.—As compared with the previous year the average daily rates of wages of skilled labourers in the Province showed a fall in both urban and rural areas. It was more pronounced in the Northern and Southern divisions than in the Central Division.

In the Northern Division the rates of daily wages decreased by six per cent. in urban areas and by 11 per cent. in rural areas. There was a decline in wages in some parts of the Broach and Panch Mahals District and Surat District which were affected by scarcity of rains. In the other parts of the Province the wages remained almost steady. In Bhiwandi Taluka in the Thana District many skilled labourers were imported from Gujarat for the manufacture of bricks. Some upcountry labour was also employed in the weaving industry in fair season.

In the Southern Division, except in the Bijapur District, where there was a fall in wages on account of shortage of rain, the general level of wages fluctuated within narrow limits. In the Kolaba District skilled labour could get about Re. 1–0–0 to Rs. 2–0–0 per day except at Uran where, owing to its nearness to Bombay, this kind of labour could secure a daily wage of Rs. 2–0–0 to Rs. 2–8–0.

In the Central Division, except in the Satara, Poona and Bombay Suburban districts where the rates of wages remained almost steady, there was a general decline in wages owing to failure of rains. The following table sets out the average daily rates of wages paid to skilled labour in the various parts of the Province in the same way as in the case of agricultural and ordinary labour.

Average daily rates of wages of skilled labour

Divisions	Daily average wages in					
	1913		1935		1936	
	Urban Areas	Rural Areas	Urban Areas	Rural Areas	Urban Areas	Rural Areas
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Political Divisions—						
Northern Division ..	0 13 9	0 11 9	1 12 8	1 3 5	1 11 0	1 1 3
Central Division ..	0 13 0	0 10 6	1 5 4	1 0 1	1 3 10	0 15 1
Southern Division ..	0 10 9	0 9 9	1 1 5	0 14 8	1 0 11	0 13 9
Economic Circles—						
Gujarat Circle ..	0 13 6	0 11 9	1 11 8	1 3 4	1 10 11	1 1 2
Deccan Circle ..	0 11 9	0 10 0	1 2 11	0 15 4	1 1 10	0 14 4
Konkan Circle ..	0 13 9	0 11 3	1 12 6	1 1 5	1 8 8	1 0 2
Province as a whole ..	0 12 6	0 10 9	1 6 5	1 0 8	1 5 2	0 15 4

FORESTS

For purposes of administration, the Presidency is divided into three Forest Circles, which are in charge of Conservators. The Chief Conservator is at the head of the Department.

Forest administration is a branch of the general administration and the central authority in forest matters is the Commissioner of a Division, subject to the general orders of Government. The Chief Conservator is the local and technical head of the Forest Department and the technical adviser of Government in forest matters. Forest Officers in charge of Circles have full powers in all professional operations of technical forestry; but in all other matters, such as those of rights and privileges of the people in forests, local supply of grass, grazing and fodder

and generally as regards the relation of the department with the people, control vests in the local revenue officers. A Working Plans Division is maintained in each Circle and the duties of the working plans divisional officers are to ascertain the capabilities of the forests in the production of timber and other forest produce and to prepare scientific schemes for the exploitation of the forests so that they may be worked for the greatest benefit both of the State and the people. The work in connection with the preparation of working plans is generally well advanced but revision of plans is carried on continuously. The classification of forests into forest proper, fuel and fodder reserves and pastures has been completed in all Circles and the areas classed as pastures have been transferred to the Revenue Department for management. The area under forests in this Presidency is nearly 13,000 square miles.

The financial results of the year were not as good as those of the previous year. The depression in the timber market in the Northern Circle as evidenced by the large quantities of timber held in stock at some bunder depôts in the North Thana Division, low prices for charcoal in Bombay, the non-disposal of sandalwood at the Dharwar depôt before the close of the year and the scarcity conditions prevailing in some parts of the Presidency during the year, were mostly responsible for a decline in revenue. The high prices ruling in the market for teak timber during 1935–36 were of a speculative character owing to the unsettled international situation. During the year this speculative element disappeared but the market for teak remained firm and on a higher level than that of the year 1934–35. Sandalwood prices, however, continued to be unsatisfactory. Business with the M. & S. M. Railway was not as satisfactory as in the previous year, as the tender for logs was not accepted by the Railway, which took only 231 tons of sawnwood against 326 tons during 1935–36. The demand for M. G. sleepers was, however, satisfactory and 50,000 Class I sleepers were supplied in addition to the annual supply under the three-year contract. A further three years' contract for an annual supply of 60,000 sleepers was entered into with the Railway. Five working plans were finally sanctioned by Government, while some more were under preparation.

The gross revenue of the year decreased from Rs. 52·10 lakhs to Rs. 47·72 lakhs and the surplus from Rs. 24·24 lakhs to Rs. 19·65 lakhs, all the circles contributing thereto. The expenditure on the other hand increased from Rs. 27·86 lakhs to Rs. 28·07 lakhs.

Communications and buildings.—Over ten miles of new roads were constructed in all Circles at a cost of Rs. 17,087 and repairs to about 1,050 miles of existing roads costing Rs. 78,646 were carried out during the year. The latter amount includes Rs. 37,983 paid to the M. & S. M. Railway Company as charges for maintenance of the Alnavar-Dandeli Railway. The corresponding figures of expenditure on new roads and repairs to old ones for the last year were Rs. 17,557 and Rs. 88,611 respectively. The total expenditure on the construction of new buildings in all the circles amounted to Rs. 28,233 as against Rs. 29,625 in the previous year and that on repairs was Rs. 19,584 against Rs. 22,483 in the preceding year.

Forest offences.—The total number of offences against forest laws increased from 21,297 to 22,229, the Central Circle alone being responsible for the increase. More than half the number of offences related to unauthorised felling or removal of forest produce. Including 168 cases pending from the previous year, there were 584 cases for disposal, of which 294 were decided, 272 resulting in conviction. Out of 17,493 cases compounded, compensation amounting to Rs. 75,533 was recovered in 16,661 cases, the average per case being Rs. 4·5 as against Rs. 4·7 in the previous year. In 832 cases the offenders were let off, while 3,132 cases remained undetected.

Protection from cattle.—The forest areas open and closed to grazing were as follows :—

	Square miles	Per cent.
Closed to all animals for the whole year ..	1,272	9·7
Closed to all animals for part of the year.	362	2·7
Open to all animals except browsers for the whole year.	8,645	66·5
Open to all animals except browsers for part of the year.	17	·1
Open to all animals for the whole year ..	2,674	20·8
Open to all animals for part of the year ..	26	·2
	12,996	100·00

The area open to grazing for horned cattle throughout the year was 87 per cent. The reduction in the period of closure from ten to five years was continued in the three Thana and Panch Mahals divisions except in cases where the growth was retarded by fires. In other parts closure was relaxed wherever necessary. East Khandesh, West Khandesh, Poona and

Ahmednagar districts suffered from scarcity at the beginning of the rainy season and closed areas were therefore thrown open. Collection of *anjan* leaves for fodder was sanctioned and the period for recovery of grazing fees at single rates was extended according to the needs of the people. Total remission of grazing fees was granted in the Sakri taluka. Village cattle were allowed to graze in any forest within the district without payment of extra fees. In the Bijapur district, owing to the partial failure of rains and consequent scarcity of fodder, closed coupes older than three years were thrown open.

The total number of cattle admitted to graze in the forests was 2,329,582 as against 2,379,892 of the previous year. Of these 1,852,225 were horned cattle, 463,921 sheep and goats and 13,436 other animals. During the year 583,044 cattle were admitted to free grazing as compared with 597,719 in the previous year.

The grazing fees collected during the year amounted to Rs. 4·96 lakhs as against Rs. 5·08 lakhs in the last year, the value at full rates being Rs. 20·35 lakhs. The fall in the amount of grazing fees is due to the decrease in the number of paying cattle admitted owing to scarcity in certain parts, the extension of the period for payment of grazing fees at single rates, remissions granted and not charging village cattle in West Khandesh at non-village cattle rates when they moved to forests beyond their village within the district. The number of cattle impounded during the year was 91,683 as compared with 83,208 in the previous year.

Fires.—There was an appreciable decrease in the area burnt in the Northern Circle, the Panch Mahals, North Thana and West Thana divisions contributing thereto. The Central and Southern Circles also showed decreases. Rewards in cash and kind as well as in the shape of free grazing were given for good fire protection.

Silviculture.—The total area under natural regeneration, both concentrated and non-concentrated, was 62,893 acres, of which 22,110 acres were in the Northern Circle, 25,934 acres in the Central Circle and 14,849 acres in the Southern Circle. General progress was maintained and results were on the whole satisfactory.

Exploitation.—During the year 1,813,000 cubic feet of timber and fuel were extracted departmentally, together with sandalwood worth about Rs. 98,000 and minor produce, grass, etc. to the value of Rs. 1,182.

The actual outturn of major and minor produce removed by consumers and purchasers during the year 1936-37 was—

Major Produce	Rs.
Timber—5,337,000 cubic feet valued at ..	.. 22,43,029
Fuel—17,294,000 cubic feet valued at ..	.. 2,75,591
Minor Produce	
Bamboos valued at	67,674
Grass and grazing valued at	6,77,541
Other minor produce valued at	1,02,083
Making a total for minor produce of ..	8,47,298

The outturn from all sources of forest produce during the year 1936-37 was—

	Cubic feet.
Timber	6,310,000
Fuel	43,504,000

The total expenditure on the management of state forests was Rs. 7·51 lakhs as against Rs. 8·02 lakhs in the previous year.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Notwithstanding agrarian distress, the movement on the agricultural side maintained steady and satisfactory progress. There was a keen demand for registration of more societies, as a result of which 126 agricultural credit societies came into existence as against 22 ordered to be wound up. The concession scheme which was introduced in 1933 continued to be in operation and has considerably helped a large number of societies to regain their vitality. The revised scheme of supervision was put into operation and the reorganisation of the supervision machinery under the control of the District Boards of Supervising Unions holds out fair prospects of improving the morale of societies and development of co-operative activities in rural areas. In the realm of long-term finance, the Provincial Land Mortgage Bank and the affiliated primaries performed their functions satisfactorily. The progress in the development of the non-credit movement was also satisfactory, as is shown by the useful work rendered by cotton sale societies, the increase in the number of taluka development associations and a demand for registration of societies for cane-growers under the Sugar Excise Fund Scheme subsidized by the Government of India.

The Provincial and District Central Banks provided finance to the rural primaries on cautious and sympathetic lines. On the non-agricultural side of the movement, the urban banks and housing societies—particularly those working in Ahmedabad—continued to forge ahead. The progress achieved by the employees' societies is noteworthy. On the whole, 259 societies were registered both in the rural and urban areas as against 36 ordered to be wound up and the total number of societies at the close of the year was 5,070 as against 4,749 of the previous year.

Resource Movement.—In view of the growing demand for registration of fresh societies, a more liberal policy was followed and registration was granted in cases where facilities in respect of irrigation, assured rainfall, communications etc., held out reasonable prospects of successful working. This policy resulted in an increase in the total number from 3,614 to 3,718. Notwithstanding the appreciable increase in the number of societies, there was a decrease in the total membership. The figures of owned capital, consisting of share capital and reserve and other funds, as also the total working capital of Rs. 294·68 lakhs recorded a satisfactory increase. There was a decrease in the total overdues from Rs. 140 lakhs to Rs. 128 lakhs owing to the fact that the amount that was due to be paid during the year was less than the corresponding figure of current demand for the previous year. Out of the total interest due for payment amounting to Rs. 62·94 lakhs, the recoveries amounted to Rs. 22·27 lakhs. The position in this respect was very unsatisfactory, particularly in the Central Division owing to the precarious condition of the canal societies.

Under the special scheme for the organisation of the Bhil area in Taloda Taluka of the West Khandesh District, nine new societies were registered. The total number of Bhil societies in the Panch Mahals and Khandesh was 128. Apart from dispensing credit, these societies proved a useful agency for giving loans in kind and making arrangements for recoveries by sale of produce.

District Boards of Supervising Unions have been registered in all districts except in Kolaba, Ratnagiri and Broach, and it is hoped that these Boards, apart from guiding the affairs of affiliated primaries, will serve as stabilizing forces in the structure of agricultural co-operation.

Long-term Finance and Land Mortgage Banks.—During the year under report, the Bombay Provincial Land Mortgage Bank sanctioned loans to the extent of nearly Rs. 9 lakhs and actually

disbursed a total amount of Rs. 6·31 lakhs to the affiliated primaries to facilitate their loan operations. Rs. 27,819 were due for repayment and the entire amount was recovered. Government have agreed to guarantee principal and interest on the first issue of debentures to the extent of Rs. 20 lakhs. The three older banks at Dharwar, Pachora and Broach fell in with the revised scheme of finance by adopting the revised bye-laws. The total number of Primary Banks including the three old banks was 13. There was an increase in the total membership from 4,311 to 6,562 and the share capital also increased from Rs. 1·41 lakhs to Rs. 2 lakhs. Out of 2,946 loan applications involving a total amount of Rs. 56·30 lakhs only 652 applications for an amount of Rs. 9 lakhs were sanctioned by the Provincial Land Mortgage Bank. The actual amount disbursed by the Primary Banks during the year was Rs. 6·65 lakhs. The bulk of the loans advanced was for the purpose of redemption of old debts. The Banks have set up conciliation committees to facilitate their operations with regard to the conciliation of the dues of their members.

Agricultural Non-Credit Societies.—The non-credit societies play an important part in the planning of rural economy, as they secure a co-ordination between their activities and the activities of the credit societies. During the year under report, 27 new societies came into existence as against four ordered to be wound up. The scheme for organisation of sugarcane growers was alone responsible for the registration of 12 societies of cane-growers. The cotton sale societies have established their reputation as an effective agency for securing better prices to the cotton-growers. The total number of these societies was 28 and the total sales conducted through them were 6·17 lakhs maunds. There were 14 cattle breeding societies all in Dharwar District. The grant of free grazing areas to the societies by Government should give an impetus to the working of these societies. The fencing and crop protection societies continued to be of great utility to the agriculturists in protecting the crops from the ravages of wild pigs.

The increase in the Taluka Development Associations from 95 to 103 was an indication of the growing recognition of the need for village uplift work among the rural masses. The Associations, in addition to their erstwhile activities in the direction of propaganda and demonstration in popularizing the use of improved seed, manures and implements were also taking more and more interest in the programme of village improvement.

Provincial and Central Banks.—The Provincial and Central Banks have tried to be responsive to the needs of the affiliated primaries and have increasingly helped the societies by a policy of reduction in the lending rates of interest and rendered assistance in the working of the concession schemes. The year under review was the Silver Jubilee year of the apex Bank, as it completed 25 years of existence on 11th October 1936. The working capital of the Bank recorded a decrease of Rs. 11½ lakhs as there was a fall of a corresponding amount in the current and savings account deposits held by co-operative institutions. The Bank made a profit of Rs. 98,742 as against Rs.1,28,808 in the previous year. The decrease was due to the reduction in the minimum and maximum rates of interest charged on loans to affiliated primaries from 8 to 7 per cent., and 6½ to 6 per cent., respectively, the low yield on the Bank's investments and the inability of the Bank to earn any interest on the amount locked up with societies in liquidation.

In Cental Banks, there was an appreciable increase in the paid up share capital, reserve and other funds and working capital. The loans due from societies at the close of the year recorded an increase of nearly Rs. 2 lakhs as a more liberal policy was followed with regard to finance in famine-stricken areas. The profits increased by nearly Rs. 86,000.

Non-Agricultural Societies.—The urban credit movement continued to show signs of expansion and increased activities. The influx of deposits in urban societies continued in spite of the low rate of interest offered to the public. During the year, 53 societies were registered and six taken into liquidation. The total share capital increased from Rs. 102·59 lakhs to Rs. 112·39 lakhs and the working capital from Rs. 5·11 crores to Rs. 5·37 crores. Of the urban credit societies, the progress achieved by those organised for the salary-earners was remarkable. They fulfilled an important role as thrift and credit organisations. During the year under report, a distinct enthusiasm for co-operation was noticeable in the industrial area in Bombay. The societies catering to the employees in the E. D. Sassoon group concentrated on a scheme for debt redemption on a large scale, as a result of which debts to the extent of Rs. 32,303 were compounded for Rs. 17,986. The success achieved in this direction was due to the keen interest evinced by the mill authorities, who have organised a special welfare department to supervise and control the working of the mill-hands' societies.

Co-operative Insurance.—The Bombay Co-operative Insurance Society maintained steady progress. The second triennial

valuation disclosed a surplus of Rs. 37,320 as on 30th June 1936, which helped the society to declare a reversionary bonus to the policy holders at the rate of Rs. 15 per thousand assured on whole life and Rs. 11 per thousand assured in endowment policies.

Housing Societies.—The year under report witnessed a further increase in the number of housing societies from 80 to 85. Ahmedabad continued to be the centre of housing activities. The attempt made at colonizing the Harijans, mostly working in the mills at Ahmedabad, through the organisation of the Vanker and New Vanker Co-operative Housing Societies, constituted a distinguishing feature of the housing movement. The colony has housed 110 families.

Producers' Societies.—The producers' movement did not show satisfactory progress. Special attempts were being made to convert the weavers' societies into producing centres, so that they could take maximum advantage of the District Indusrtial Associations established for the reorganisation of the handloom industry.

Better Living Societies.—The better living societies numbering 33 in all took their due share in the programme of village improvement.

Bombay Provincial Co-operative Institute.—The Institute continued to function as an educative and propaganda organization.

Co-operative Training and Education.—Apart from the training imparted to departmental employees, a number of Honorary Organisers and employees of Central and Urban Banks availed themselves of the facilities provided.

HORTICULTURE

PUBLIC GARDENS

Bombay Municipal Gardens.—Thirteen gardens, 31 recreation grounds and open spaces, two fountains, two bandstands and the Queen's Statue opposite the old C. I. T. Office were maintained during the year. The directed games at Mastanshah Tank, Gilder Tank and Willingdon Memorial Play-ground under the supervision of the Y.M.C.A. continued to be popular. The cricket practice pitches at Gowalia Tank Maidan were popular as before and were very much in demand. The total number of band performances given during the year was 30 against 31 for the previous year and that of Indian Musical Concerts remained the same, viz. four. During the year the

Band Stand erected out of the donations received from Mr. Hargovandas Jivandas was brought into use.

The number of visitors to the Victoria Gardens and the Zoo attached to it during the year was 1,900,934 and the daily average of visitors was, 6,048 against 2,453,965 and 6,723 respectively for the previous year. The decrease was due to the outbreak of communal disturbances in the City. Some lawns were added and flowerbeds and shrubberies planted during the year.

Empress and Bund Gardens, Poona.—The economic and educational value of these gardens, which are maintained by the Agri-Horticultural Society of Western India, cannot be too highly estimated. They are an asset of great value to Poona. The receipts of the Empress Gardens for the year 1936–37 were Rs. 15,139 while the expenditure was Rs. 17,146. The receipts and expenditure of the Bund Gardens amounted to Rs. 2,204, the Poona Suburban Municipality having given a contribution of Rs. 1,500 to cover the expenditure. During the year under report Government paid Rs. 3,000 to meet the deficit for the year 1935–36.

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CHAPTER V

TRADE AND COMMERCE

NORTHERN DIVISION.—There were 103 spinning and weaving mills in Ahmedabad on 1st August 1936, out of which five were not working. Other small factories continued to work as usual and they increased by 23 during the year. Trade conditions in Ahmedabad were on the whole satisfactory except for two months in the year.

In Kaira District besides the new Shorrock Mill at Nadiad, which continued to work satisfactorily, there were 38 ginning and pressing factories and 77 flour mills. There were also 538 hand-looms, one silk factory at Nadiad, six soap factories, 192 pumping plants, seven oil mills, and three metal breaking factories. Other small industries continued as usual.

In the Panch Mahals sub-division of Broach and Panch Mahals district the principal trade is in timber and grain. Godhra is the chief marketing and exporting centre for timber, but during the year under the report it was not so successful owing to low prices, while Dohad continued to be an important market for grain. Other factories such as oil mills, flour mills, saw mills, ice and sugar factories etc. continued to work as usual.

In the Broach sub-division cotton is the chief product and forms the staple article of trade and industry. There were 32 ginning factories and 14 cotton presses out of which 27 ginning factories and 13 cotton presses worked during the year. Of the three cotton mills in Broach city two continued to work during the year.

The principal produce in Surat district is cotton and three cotton mills, 30 ginning factories, and 15 pressing factories worked during the year. The silk and embroidery business did not show any sign of improvement owing to the continued general depression in trade and change in fashions. The chief exports of the district were grass, firewood, coal, timber, molasses, mangoes, vegetables, rice, cotton and cotton seeds.

In Thana, rice—the principal produce of the district—was as usual exported to Bombay and other places. There were about 150 rice mills and 40 flour mills working in the district during the year. Other articles of export were timber, charcoal, grass, salt, bricks, lime, fresh and dry fish, vegetables, plaintains,

betel leaves, saries and woollen cloth. Bricks were manufactured on a large scale in Kalyan and Bhiwandi talukas and were as usual exported to Bombay and other places. There were about 1,000 hand-looms in the Bhiwandi taluka but they were affected by the increasing number of power factories. The manufacture of bangles at Tarapur in Palghar taluka is largely a home industry and it worked satisfactorily. The salt works at Bhayandar, the Match Factory at Ambernath and the Woollen and Bone Mills in Thana continued as usual during the year.

In the Bombay Suburban District there was no appreciable change in the condition of the trade. The Asbestos Cement Co. Ltd. opened a factory at Mulund in the premises formerly occupied by Braithwaite & Co. A new match factory was also opened at Kurla at the end of the year. The building and quarrying trades continued to do brisk business, and the fishing industry continued as usual during the year.

Central Division.—The general trade depression continued during the year. The chief industry of this Division is agriculture, and trade is mainly confined to the export of raw materials, the principal articles being grain, cotton and oil seeds. Jaggery is the most important article of trade in the irrigated tracts of Ahmednagar, Nasik and Poona districts but owing to a continued fall in its price the irrigators did not find it very profitable to grow cane and the trade consequently suffered.

Cotton and groundnut continued to be the chief products of trade in Khandesh and there was practically no change in their prices. Cotton in Khandesh showed signs of losing its popularity and was being replaced by groundnut and grain crops in places. Groundnut was exported on a large scale to Bombay and other industrial centres from Satara District. There was also a large export of onions, betel leaves and eggs from that District and of fruit, onions and fresh vegetables from Nasik District.

There are five cotton spinning and weaving mills in East Khandesh, one each in Poona and West Khandesh districts and eight in Sholapur District. All these mills did well generally. Owing to the general trade depression and increasing foreign competition the position of the textile industry was not as satisfactory as it had been during the previous year. There is a large number of ginning and pressing factories all over the Division except in Satara District. Owing to the failure of cotton crop they had no work in Ahmednagar District while in East Khandesh only such of them as were required to cope with the outturn were working. Handloom weaving was carried on in all the

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Districts but the industry is in a precarious condition, as it cannot compete with the mills.

The three sugar factories at Belapur, Ranjankhol and Belwandi in Ahmednagar District and the Rawalgaon Sugar Factory in Nasik District continued to work well. Of the two sugar factories in Sholapur District the Saswad Mali Sugar Factory worked at full pressure while the other at Borgaon worked only part time.

The tanneries at Bhusawal and Sholapur and the one in Nagar Taluka, the bidi factories at Nasik and Sinnar, the Reay Paper Mill at Mundhwa and the Ravivarma Fine Art Litho Press at Malavli continued to work. The Kirloskar Iron Factory, the Hindustan Engineering Works near Satara Road, the Industrial Factory for the manufacture of agricultural implements at Karad and the Ogale Glass Works at Satara progressed satisfactorily.

Southern Division.—Trade was not in a flourishing condition owing to the general slump in prices. The principal products exported from the Karnatak districts were, jowar, wheat, cotton, jaggery, chillies, groundnut, betelnut, betel leaves, spices and timber and those from the Konkan districts, rice, salt, fish and cocoanuts.

Several ginning factories in Bijapur District were without work owing to the poor outturn of cotton. The ginning factories in Belgaum District and the spinning and weaving mills at Hubli and Gadag in Dharwar District fared well. Handloom industry suffered in general as the material produced by them could not compete with mill-made cloth. The condition of weavers in Bijapur District was precarious owing to the prevalence of scarcity but the situation was eased by providing them with yarn and getting finished articles from them on payment of wages. An amount of Rs. 1,900 was sanctioned from the village uplift funds in Ratnagiri District for training weavers in improved methods of weaving.

The copper and brass industry in Kolaba and Dharwar districts had a lean year owing to the general trade depression. The aluminium industry at Vijayadurg in Ratnagiri District is on the wane : the factory which manufactured cups and saucers was closed down during the year.

The soap factory at Goregaon (Kolaba) and the factories manufacturing wooden toys and cutlery at Pen continued to work well. The Dhutpapeshwar Ayurvedic Pharmacy at Panvel had a normal year. The Bharat Tiles Factory at Mora (Kolaba) did well, its outturn being valued at Rs. 1·60 lakhs but the tile factories at Khanapur (Belgaum) showed no progress.

The cashewnut shelling factories at Malwan and Vengurla in Ratnagiri District had a good year; the import of cashewnuts being valued at Rs. 6·84 lakhs and the export of finished kernels to Bombay and America at Rs. 13·92 lakhs. The trade in mangoes also thrived in Ratnagiri District, the value of ripe mangoes exported being estimated at Rs. 3·65 lakhs. Pineapple and mango canning works have been opened in Dapoli Taluka (Ratnagiri) and a mango-pulp industry is conducted at Karwar.

Ebony, sandalwood and ivory carving was carried on in Kumta and Karwar talukas; but the industry did not prosper for want of a good market.

An industry which flourishes well is that of preparing cart-wheels at Panvel. These have a ready demand from the above-ghat districts.

Seventy-four rice mills worked in Kolaba District, 31 in Kanara District and 7 in Belgaum District. The mills in Kanara District, however, did not get sufficient work. The Tata Power Company's power houses in Kolaba District continued to supply electric energy as usual.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES

During the year under review, the general industrial outlook of the Presidency was encouraging. Improvement in the purchasing power of the masses, coupled with the availability of cheap money, contributed to greater industrial activity. The persistent scare of an European war also served to quicken the pace of industrial progress. The imports of foreign merchandise into India recorded a decline during the year under review and foreign competition in manufactured articles was comparatively less severe. The expansion in industrial development was reflected in the increase in the number of factories and in the greater consumption of electrical energy for industrial purposes. The employment situation improved and labour unrest was at a low ebb. These factors conduced to larger industrial production. Industrial concerns generally did well and the stock exchange was buoyant for industrial shares. As a result of the confidence thus created many new companies were floated. The authorised capital of all the companies on the register at the close of the year recorded a net increase of 77·03 lakhs as against a net decrease of 31·28 lakhs at the end of the preceding year.

Cotton Textile Industry.—The improvement in the condition of the industry, noticeable last year, was maintained during the year under review. The main tendencies of the year were

increased doubleshift working, wider introduction of rationalised methods of work, lesser production of yarn for sales, greater concentration by the Bombay mills on the production of finer counts of yarn, increased production of cloth, expansion of the foreign markets for mill made goods and a remarkable fall in the imports of foreign piecegoods into India. The results of the year's working of the cotton textile industry were on the whole satisfactory. Several mills were able to make profits and declare dividends.

In the field of trade relationships with foreign countries certain far reaching events of importance to the textile industry occurred during the year and these were :—

the notice of termination of the Ottawa Agreement given by India and the discussions that were in progress for the conclusion of a new Indo-British Trade Agreement ;

the negotiations for the renewal of the Indo-Japanese Trade Agreement and Protocol ;

the appointment of an Indian Trade Commissioner in Japan ; and

the reduction of the import duty on British goods, excluding printed goods, from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent.

Woollen Industry.—The condition of the woollen industry remained much the same as in the previous year. The quantity of piecegoods produced increased although there was a decrease in the quantity of yarn produced. Foreign imports slightly increased and the usual inflow into Bombay of woollen goods from Cawnpore and other important woollen manufacturing centres of India continued.

Hosiery.—This industry recorded steady progress except in the woollen hosiery section. A new hosiery factory was started during the year and the local production of hosiery increased while foreign imports decreased.

Silk Fabrics.—The condition of the silk (real and artificial) weaving industry improved during the year. The imports of silk yarn and piecegoods decreased. Owing to the prevailing high protective duties, the artificial silk industry did exceptionally well.

Gas Mantle Industry.—This industry recovered from the slump which prevailed during the last three or four years. The quality of the product improved resulting in greater sales locally and also in some demand from foreign markets. Imports of gas mantles into Bombay steadily declined during the year under review, and amounted to nearly one-third of what they were during the previous year.

Chemical Industry.—The chemical industry, except heavy chemicals, on the whole did fairly well during the year. A plant for the production of acetic acid, which had been closed down, was reorganised during the year and started operations.

Sugar Industry.—There was steady improvement in the condition of this industry. The production of the sugar factories in the Presidency increased from 24,746 tons to 341,149 tons. In addition, the number and production of Khandsari sugar factories also increased. The imports of sugar both in quantity and value registered a decline. From the point of view of the estimated annual consumption of sugar in the Province there is ample scope for the development of the industry, which is now supplying sugar to the consumer at comparatively low prices.

Match Industry.—The production of this industry was considerably less than in the previous year, due to the closure of some factories, the partial working of a few others and to a prolonged labour dispute in the largest producing unit in the industry.

Paper Industry.—Three paper mills were working throughout the year and their combined output was 477 tons more in 1936 than in 1935. The imports of paper showed a definite downward trend.

Glass Industry.—Five glass factories, including two bangle factories, were working during the year. Although there was a steady decline in the imports of glassware the local glass industry had still to face very severe competition from Japan. The Government of India continued to grant rebate on the customs duty on soda ash required for the industry.

Oil Mill Industry.—The number of oil mills in the Presidency increased from 53 to 71. The industry, on the whole, continued to do well.

Vegetable Ghee.—The two vegetable ghee factories in the Presidency continued to work well during the year.

Soap Industry.—With the fall in the imports of soap from foreign countries there has, during recent years, been considerable development of the indigenous soap industry. The exports of soap from Bombay increased during the year.

Confectionery.—Six confectionery (including chocolate) manufacturing factories and four biscuit-making establishments which had been at work last year continued to work during the year.

Engineering Industry.—The number of engineering factories decreased from 180 to 171 during the year. The main activity was in engineering structural work. There was also an increase

in the manufacture of machinery required in connection with agricultural work, e.g., cereal cleaning and grinding mills, oil mills and water pumps for irrigation purposes. Steady progress was made in the manufacture of small and medium sizes of crude oil engines. On the whole, the condition of the engineering industry showed a slight improvement over last year.

Aluminium Hollow-ware Industry.—During the year under review there was a decided improvement in the aluminium hollow-ware trade, due directly to organised control of sales and the elimination of cut-throat competition.

Gold Thread Industry.—Due to the efforts of the Department of Industries the quality of gold thread manufactured has shown steady improvement. Despite the decline in foreign imports, the market for the local products of this industry showed no improvement. The industry did not do so well due largely to internal competition.

Cigarette Industry.—The number of cigarette factories in the Bombay Presidency remained practically the same as last year but several of them made considerable additions to their existing machinery. Although there has been an increase in the local production of cigarettes, still the Presidency's requirements have had to be supplemented by foreign and inland imports.

New Enterprises.—The manufacture of gramophone records, advertising tape, electrodes, surgical instruments and appliances, hospital furniture and absorbent cotton, fruit-canning, and the making of toys from imported celluloid sheets were among the new industries started. Several new factories were started in the Presidency during the year. These included two factories for retreading old motor car tyres, one for the manufacture of revolving steel shutters suitable for buildings, godowns, etc., one for spraying of metals on metal sheets, wood and paper board surfaces and a plant for nickel, chromium, copper and silver plating with a small department for the manufacture of B. P. pharmaceutical preparations. The new companies floated during the year included two cotton mills, one silk mill, one knitting mill, three ginning and pressing factories, 13 cinema companies, 13 electric undertakings, one radio and spare parts manufacturing company, one mining company, four engineering concerns, one rubber goods manufacturing company, two cement and tile companies, one dry ice company, one sugar manufacturing company, one company for the manufacture of salt, one company for the manufacture of boots and shoes, one enamel-ware manufacturing company, one glass factory,

23 printing and publishing presses and eight chemists and druggists companies. The total authorised capital of all the new companies floated during the year amounted to Rs. 1,153·69 lakhs. As against this, 21 concerns with a total paid up capital of Rs. 115·65 lakhs went into liquidation.

There is scope for establishment of new industries, such as manufacture of billets and sheets, torch light casings, M. S. piping, wood screws, sand and emery paper, small cutlery, veneers, plywood, pencil, spinning frame rings and travellers for use in textile mills, standard small engineering tools and small metal screws from ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

General Assistance to Industries.—Apart from the improvements effected in technical processes and appliances, the Department supplied technical advice and assistance to industries in the solution of their practical difficulties where they were called for.

Commercial and Industrial Intelligence.—This branch of the Department continued its useful work as usual and was very popular. The total number of enquiries dealt with by the Department increased from 576 in 1935–36 to 718 during the year under review. The library of the Department which contains many technical publications, including Patent Office specifications, was widely used by the public interested in industrial problems.

State-aid to Industries.—During the year a loan of Rs. 1,500 was granted for the purchase of a new diesel engine and raw materials for manufacturing brass cocks, spray pumps and similar brass articles. Another loan of Rs. 2,000 was sanctioned to a man engaged in the manufacture of detergent products to enable him to undertake the supply of the requirements of the railways, Public Works Department and local bodies. In addition there were a dozen applications, mostly from textile, leather and chemical industries for loans ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000. Except in two cases in which enquiries were in progress all the other applications could not be considered as the parties failed to furnish the requisite information or security.

Exhibitions.—During the year the Department took part in six industrial and agricultural exhibitions, including the U. P. Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition held in Lucknow. In the Lucknow Exhibition, the Department was awarded four silver medals and ten certificates of merit for its demonstrations and exhibits. One of the local weavers obtained a prize in the All-India Weaving competition.

Research experiments to explore possibilities of new industries.—During the year, the results of the work done on alumina and aluminium sulphate which had been completed last year were published in the form of a bulletin entitled "Possibility of Production of Aluminium in Bombay" and aroused considerable interest among enterprising businessmen in Bombay.

A pilot plant for the production of nicotine and nicotine insecticide was set up in co-operation with a man interested in the production of nicotine. The results obtained showed that it would be profitable to manufacture nicotine and nicotine salts in Belgaum District.

Further work on the production of cashew nut shell oil in large quantities in the Presidency was undertaken and a pilot plant is proposed to be put up in the near future.

A commercial plant for the production of lime or lemon oil was set up and worked during the last season. The oil produced was sold at a remunerative price. Offers were received from firms in the United Kingdom for the purchase of the entire production of oil during the coming season.

Cottage Industries.—The Department maintained during the year five weaving schools for *bona fide* weavers, and two for agriculturists, seven cotton weaving and three wool weaving demonstrations, one cottage sizing set demonstration, one dyeing and printing demonstration and the Central Hand Weaving Institute, Poona. As a result of these demonstrations and activities, the Department was able to introduce 293 fly shuttle looms, 176 dobbies, seven galicha weaving looms, nine improved wool spinning wheels and four improved wool carding bows amongst the hand weavers in the Presidency.

Marketing of Cotton Handloom Products.—The grant of Rs. 44,100 made available to this Presidency by the Government of India was utilised in advertising the products of the Industrial Associations, in meeting losses due to the manufacture of new samples and in payment of bonus to selling agents. The saving effected in the working of the scheme so far is proposed to be utilised in expanding the scheme by organising Co-operative Associations at Yeola and Malegaon in Nasik District and Bhiwandi in Thana District. The newly organised Association at Ahmedabad commenced working in November 1936. While the Associations at Ahmednagar and Hubli showed good progress and made some profits on their working, that at Poona worked at a loss owing to unfavourable conditions prevailing there.

Woollen Cottage Industry.—A grant of Rs. 12,600 was allocated to this Presidency by the Government of India for undertaking the scheme for the development of cottage and small scale woollen industries of this Presidency. The main features and the aims and objects of the scheme are more or less similar to those of the Marketing Scheme for the products of cotton handloom industry. The existing industrial associations at Ahmednagar and Hubli will be entrusted with the work of selling the products of the woollen industry. A Wool Expert is proposed to be appointed to look after the working of the scheme.

Tanning Industry.—Out of the village improvement grant made by the Government of India, the Local Government sanctioned a scheme for the improvement of the village tanning industry. The Tanning Expert was appointed with effect from 1st April 1936, and he organised and trained two tanning parties. Both the parties first worked at the Chamdevalikiwadi, Khar, for some time. One of the parties was then shifted from Khar to Dahiwadi, Satara District, and the other to Talegaon Dabhade in Poona District. The Collectors of the respective districts sanctioned a sum of Rs. 100 for providing the necessary tools and implements and a tanning shed to the local tanners. An amount of Rs. 1,700 from the Rural Uplift grant was sanctioned by the Collector, B. S. D., for building of a tanning school at the Chamdevalikiwadi. These demonstrations were so popular and successful that requests have been received from various Collectors for the posting of the demonstration parties in their districts. The larger tanneries and leather dealers sought and received technical advice and guidance from the Tanning Expert.

Technical and Industrial Education.—The R. C. Technical Institute, Ahmedabad, and the Government Hand Weaving Institute, Poona, were the only two Government technical institutions administered and controlled directly by the Department of Industries. The figures of net expenditure on these two institutes for the year under review were Rs. 32,335 and Rs. 12,940 respectively. The Director of Industries continued to be the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the V. J. Technical Institute, Bombay, which was in receipt of a grant-in-aid of Rs. 1·25 lakhs during the year. The Department of Industries continued to maintain as before its touch with, and control over, several other technical and industrial schools in the Presidency through the agency of the Committee of Direction for Technical Education of which body the Director of Industries is the

Chairman. Grants-in-aid disbursed to various technical and industrial schools during the year amounted to Rs. 37,892. In addition a sum of Rs. 2,892 was granted to special schools or for special work and equipment. There were in all seven Government aided institutions maintained by public bodies, 17 Government aided private institutions, 21 other institutions not in receipt of grant but recognised by the Department and 10 institutions recognised for examination purposes only.

Scholarships.—A number of scholarships tenable at the V. J. Technical Institute, Bombay, the R. C. Technical Institute, Ahmedabad, the F. S. Parekh Technical Institute, Surat, and the Government Hand Weaving Institute, Poona, were awarded by the Department of Industries during the year. Several scholarships and prizes were also given to students of the peripatetic weaving schools in the Presidency. Two scholarships for research in technical chemistry and one for practical experience in electrical engineering were also awarded during the year. The special scholarship in textile manufacture tenable at the College of Technology, Manchester, awarded by the Government of Bombay in 1933-34 was extended for a further period up to 31st July 1937.

Apprentice Scheme.—In December 1936 Government sanctioned the introduction, in Bombay City and Ahmedabad to start with, of the Apprentice Scheme prepared and submitted by the Department. Essentially the scheme is a voluntary apprenticeship in industrial establishments on the basis of full time employment extending over a period of five years, the apprentices being bound by the terms of the agreement to attend evening technical classes during the entire period at the V. J. Technical Institute, Bombay, and the R. C. Technical Institute, Ahmedabad. The courses of training at present are limited to the subjects in Mechanical Engineering; Electrical Engineering; Spinning; Weaving; Dyeing and Printing and Typography. The minimum academic qualification is completion of the 7th Standard of the English High School Course and the age at admission is limited to 16 to 20 years.

Seventy-nine industrial establishments in Bombay City and Ahmedabad voluntarily agreed to admit as apprentices 333 boys per year, and to pay them wages at a rate of about Rs. 15 per mensem in the first year, to be increased later on according to the latter's ability. The post of Deputy Director of Industries, who is to be in charge of the Technical Education including the Apprentice Scheme, was also created by Government.

Fisheries.—The Fisheries Section popularises the use of power-propelled launches among fishermen, controls 31 fish curing yards in the Presidency, takes steps for the development of fresh water fisheries, compiles fisheries statistics, supplies information about the same to the public and renders general assistance to the fisheries industry and trade. The number of power-propelled vessels operating as fish carriers on the Bombay coast was six, three of which were owned by the Department. These launches made trips as far down as Bhatkal, the southernmost point of the Bombay Presidency and to Diu in the North. The quantity of fish landed by the three launches of the Department was 4·05 lakhs lbs. as against 2·39 lakhs lbs. in 1935–36, the value of the catch being about Rs. 35,000. The privately owned launches brought between them 1·87 lakhs lbs. of fish. All this fish was readily absorbed in Bombay at better prices. The scheme for the training of fishermen in the handling of launches was continued during the year, the number of apprentices so far trained being ten.

The control of the fish curing yards was transferred from the Salt Department, Government of India, to the Department of Industries, on July 1, 1936. There are 31 yards in the Bombay Presidency—18 in the Ratnagiri District and 13 in the Kanara District. During the nine months ending March 31, 1937, the quantity of fish brought to the yards for curing was 2·22 lakhs maunds. The working of the yards showed a surplus of Rs. 7,945.

Out of the sum of Rs. 10,000 allotted by the Government of India for the development of inland fisheries in the Bombay Presidency, Government sanctioned a scheme, spread over a period of four years, comprising of a preliminary survey of sheets of fresh water in the Presidency, fish fattening in tanks and wells and fish culture. A Piscicultural Assistant was appointed specially for the purpose of the scheme. Survey of some sheets of water in the Presidency was carried out with a view to obtaining fingerlings of " Catla " and other varieties of fish which could be reared in tanks and wells. The results obtained so far are encouraging.

Weights and Measures section.—The Bombay Weights and Measures Act, 1932, was in force in the whole of the Bombay Presidency during the year. The Weights and Measures laboratories both in the Bombay City and in the districts continued to work satisfactorily during the year. The Act was enforced with the co-operation of the various municipalities and district local boards. Some 16 local bodies participated

in the enforcement of the Act during the year. During the period from 1st August 1935, when the Act first came into effect, up to 31st March 1937, over 18½ lakhs units of weights, measures and scales were verified and stamped. Twenty-four cases of prosecution for the use of unauthorised weights and measures by traders were sanctioned. Convictions were secured in eight cases, while the remaining cases were pending at the close of the year.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the Department of Industries for the year 1936–37 was Rs. 6·20 lakhs as against Rs. 6·32 lakhs during the year 1935–36. These figures are exclusive of the figures of expenditure in connection with activities pertaining to the Marketing Scheme and the development of village industries of tanning and inland fisheries which were financed out of the Government of India grants. The total expenditure inclusive of all these activities of the Department for the year 1936–37 was Rs. 6·64 lakhs. The total receipts during the year were Rs. 6·16 lakhs out of which Rs. 5·40 lakhs were realised from fees collected by Government Inspectors of Weights and Measures and about Rs. 62,000 from the Fish Curing Yards.

COMMISSIONER OF LABOUR

As from 6th June 1933 Government decided that all offices dealing with labour matters should be put under one officer to be known as the Commissioner of Labour. As a result, the administration of the Factories Department was transferred from the Collector of Bombay, together with the Steam Boilers and Smoke Nuisances Department, the latter more for administrative convenience, than the nature of the work done by the Department. The Labour Office, which is responsible for social and economic statistics, industrial disputes, legislation and other labour matters also came under the Commissioner of Labour and so did the offices of the Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation and the Registrar of Trade Unions. The Director of the Labour Office, who was also Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation and Registrar of Trade Unions became Commissioner of Labour.

THE FACTORIES ACT

The year under report was not marked by any general industrial upheaval. The total number of factories increased from 1,743 to 1,879 while the number of those that actually worked was 1,611 compared with 1,499 in the previous year.

Of those that worked 952 were perennial and 659 seasonal, 237 of the perennial and 582 of the seasonal concerns being connected with the cotton industry. The increase was due partly to bringing on the register certain small, formerly unregulated, factories and dhobighats and also to the development of new industries.

The number of operatives employed in all industries was 391,771 compared with 399,919 last year. There was a decrease in the number employed on the day-shifts in the Ahmedabad mills owing to the stopping of a few mills, but this was more than compensated by an increase of night-shift working. There was a decrease in Bombay on both day and night shifts and a decrease in the mofussil mills owing to a cessation of night-shift working, but there has been an increase in employment in the textile industry recently. The employment figures for the textile industry showed that 80,280,279 adult shifts were worked compared with 84,419,004 last year. The total number of women working in the factories was 62,652, of which 23,990 were in Bombay city, while the children numbered 922, of whom only 38 were in Bombay city and the rest were in the mofussil.

A Municipal Committee has been appointed to report in the matter of disposal of trade waste in Ahmedabad, as it is a problem crying for solution. Some mills were prosecuted for discharging trade waste into public roads whilst the irrigation authorities instituted a case for the fouling of an irrigation channel. Ahmedabad is industrially developing at a greater rate than the provision of Municipal amenities and though every effort is made to keep conditions in the compounds fairly satisfactory, many mills create a nuisance in the locality.

The mill in Gokak undertook very comprehensive measures to combat the malaria menace, by the destruction of mosquitoes and larvae and by giving the prophylactic injections to the operatives and their families. The number of malaria cases treated in the dispensary was only 196 compared with an average of 3,249 in the previous three years.

There was a very great advance in ventilation during the year. The system of installing air-conditioning plants is being gradually adopted by mills both in Bombay City and the mofussil. Most of the Ahmedabad weaving sheds have adopted measures of humidification that involve a free supply of cool saturated air, and of the remaining 13 sheds six are either providing or are likely to provide air conditioning apparatus. Gujerat has realised the air conditioning spells better working

conditions for the operative, improved technical conditions and increased efficiency.

The total number of accidents was 7,016, in which 7,043 persons were injured of whom 1,680 were serious. The number of accidents in the previous year was 6,789, in which 6,825 persons were injured. Greater activity in the engineering industry was partly responsible for the increase. A steady improvement in the fencing standard was made, although some classes of factories required constant supervision. It is being gradually realised that cheapness in this direction does not pay. A few serious and fatal accidents occurred in the gurhals owing to the absence of fencing for the transmission machinery and guards for the gearing. It was necessary to institute proceedings against a few occupiers for breach of the safety requirements and also for failure to report accidents. A fairly satisfactory response was made to the rule requiring the provision of first aid boxes in factories.

Welfare work continued to show progress. Crèches were opened in two mills in Bombay and one each at Gadag, Barsi and Dhulia. A detailed enquiry was undertaken in Bombay as a result of a resolution of the Municipality requesting Government to apply compulsion in the matter. Despite the expenditure of a great deal of time, thought, and money, the response from factory women has not been altogether encouraging, and a lot of the time of the Inspectress has, from the start of her engagement, been devoted to overcoming prejudices. The enquiry incidentally revealed that a high percentage of the women workers in the mills in Bombay are widows, whilst the fact, noted in connection with the payment of maternity benefits, that the birth rate amongst textile women in Bombay is comparatively low was confirmed. In Ahmedabad a few excellent crèches have been established. The average daily attendance at the crèches in Bombay was 520, with a maximum of 654. Opium drugging was stopped in 367 cases, whilst 139 infants were never introduced to the drug.

During the year 438 cases were instituted by the full time Inspectors of Factories as compared with 465 in the previous year. The fines realised amounted to about Rs. 13,000.

Despite a decrease of 4,485 in the number of women employed, there was an increase of 465 in the claims paid under the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, the rate per 100 women employed increasing from 7·9 to 9·75. A sum of Rs. 1·04 lakhs was paid in benefits, the average per claim being Rs. 25-14-9 in Bombay and Rs. 25-9-6 in Ahmedabad. As the

maximum that may be obtained is Rs. 28, which may be earned if a woman absents herself for four weeks before confinement, it is clear that most women are availing themselves of this privilege. The Act provides for the benefit to be paid in one of three ways, but it appears that the privilege of taking four weeks' benefit when leaving work is being exercised as much as possible. There was an increase of 133 in the number of women in Bombay who received the benefit in this way, but Ahmedabad showed a reduction of 57 where it is alleged that the women prefer to obtain a lump sum some time after the event. The system was introduced in a few districts where it was not formerly in use and 1,793 out of 4,310 women obtained half the benefit when absenting themselves for confinement.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

The Act worked smoothly during the year. Valuable assistance was received from the Insurance Companies who represented employers in 58 per cent. of the cases as against 50 per cent. last year. The work of the Insurance Companies would be greatly facilitated if employers generally and small employers in particular took more interest in their workmen and furnished the Insurance Companies without delay with the information required before payments can be made.

Only the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, played any real part in the settlement of claims for compensation on behalf of workers. During the year under report the total number of cases handled by them was 200 ; 146 of which were settled. The total amount of compensation secured was Rs. 29,930. General cases which could not be mutually settled by correspondence with the Insurance Companies in Bombay in which it was not thought necessary to file a claim in Ahmedabad were referred to the arbitration of the Commissioner, Bombay. The Union officials conducted all the cases in the Courts assisted by their medical officer. In Bombay the majority of contested cases were handled by two Claims Agencies. In most of the other cases the workmen or dependants were assisted by the workmen's compensation office staff there being 50 such cases during the year.

Returns under section 16 of the Act were received from 1,806 concerns, of which 1,708 were in respect of factories, 52 in respect of electric supply companies, 27 in respect of cinema film manufacturing companies, 13 in respect of fire brigades, one each in respect of tramways, port trusts and mines

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and three in respect of explosives manufacturing factories. The average number of workmen employed daily was 400,825 of whom 398,633 were adults and 2,192 minors as against 413,726 adults and 2,845 minors respectively last year. The total number of accidents reported was 4,071 of which 43 resulted in death, 327 in permanent disablement and 3,701 in temporary disablement in two of which the injured workmen were minors. The total payment of compensation reported in respect of these accidents was Rs. 1,56,862 of which Rs. 41,450 were paid in respect of fatal accidents, Rs. 63,967 in respect of permanent disablement and Rs. 51,445 were in respect of temporary disablement. This amount represents only the compensation paid by the employers covered by the notification under section 16 and not the whole amount of compensation paid by all the employers amenable to the Act.

The total number of cases dealt with during the year by the Commissioners in the presidency, including those of agreements, was 738, the total amount of compensation paid being Rs. 2,33,146.

During the year under report Rs. 1·66 lakhs were deposited with the Commissioners as compensation. Including the opening balance of Rs. 21,512, there was a total amount of Rs. 1·88 lakhs, of which Rs. 1·21 lakhs were paid out to dependants in respect of cases of fatal accidents, and Rs. 34,348 to injured women and other injured workmen, leaving a balance of Rs. 32,119 undisposed of at the end of the year.

The total number of applications for registration of agreements to be disposed of during the year was 436 of which 419 were disposed of, leaving 17 pending at the end of the year. Of the 419 applications, 406 related to permanent disablement, twelve to temporary disablement and the remaining to commutation of half-monthly payments.

Out of the 319 cases and 419 agreements disposed of during the year under report, 229, i.e., about 72 per cent. of the cases, and 368, i.e., about 88 per cent. of the agreements, were dealt with by the Commissioner, Bombay, and the remaining 90 cases and 51 agreements were disposed of by the 21 ex-Officio Commissioners. The Commissioner, Bombay, disposed of 99 contested cases. Ten of the ex-Officio Commissioners had no contested cases ; nine had only one each ; one had five and the Commissioner, Ahmedabad, had forty-four. The number of agreements dealt with by the ex-Officio Commissioners was extremely small.

BOILER INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

The number of boilers on the register at the end of the year was 5,926. Out of these 1,933 were inspected and certified by the Boiler Department. Eleven cases of irregularities were discovered. The explanations given were accepted and in each case a warning was given.

Nine accidents to boilers and steam pipes were investigated during the year. No person was killed but two boiler-house coolies were slightly scalded.

Three examinations for certificates of Competency as boiler attendants and three for certificates of Proficiency as engineers were held at Bombay. The number of candidates for the Competency and Proficiency examinations has been well maintained and whereas these were previously held twice yearly, the alteration to three times yearly has met with general favour. The Proficiency examination for engineers continues to attract candidates from all over India. Although not compulsory under the Indian Boilers Act, the Bombay Proficiency certificate is highly valued and in many parts of India no mechanical engineer can obtain a good post in an industrial concern without it.

The receipts, excluding those on account of Boiler Attendants' and Engineers' examination fees, for the year were Rs. 1,32,924 as against Rs. 1,36,926 (excluding Sind) in the previous year. The receipts on account of examination fees during the year in Bombay were Rs. 9,780 as against Rs. 9,095 (excluding Sind) for the preceding year.

SEA-BORNE TRADE

The following figures give the total value of the sea-borne trade of the Bombay Presidency during the year 1936–37 :—

I. Foreign Trade—

	Merchandise	*Treasure*
Imports—Rs. 49·91 crores		Rs. 12·99 crores
Exports—Rs. 44·45 crores		Rs. 29·47 crores
	Rs. 94·36 crores	Rs. 42·46 crores

giving a total foreign trade of Rs. 136·82 crores as compared with Rs. 139·26 crores in the preceding year.

II. Coasting Trade—

	Merchandise	*Treasure*
Imports—Rs. 23·29 crores		Rs. 11 lakhs
Exports—Rs. 27·03 crores		Rs. 7 lakhs
	Rs. 50·32 crores	Rs. 18 lakhs

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giving a total coasting trade of Rs. 50·50 crores against Rs. 48·29 crores in the preceding year.

The total sea-borne trade of the Bombay Presidency amounted to Rs. 187·32 crores against Rs. 187·55 crores in the preceding year.

Steady progress was made during the year under report towards a return to general trading conditions. Recovery was most marked in exports which increased considerably due to greater industrial activities in foreign manufacturing countries. There was a general rise in the prices of agricultural commodities whereas the prices of goods of Indian manufacture declined. With the repealing of sanctions against Italy imports from that country gradually revived and the figures for the closing months of the year indicated that the trade was assuming normal proportions. The civil war in Spain had an adverse effect on the trade with that country which was most noticeable in the reduction of her demand of Indian raw cotton.

The aggregate value of the foreign trade of the Presidency amounted to Rs. 136·82 crores as compared with Rs. 139·26 crores in 1935-36, the value of merchandise being Rs. 94·36 crores as against Rs. 88·25 crores and of treasure Rs. 42·46 crores as against Rs. 51·01 crores.

The total value of imports of private foreign merchandise into the Presidency of Bombay amounted to Rs. 49·33 crores showing a fall of Rs. 5·2 crores, as compared with the corresponding figure for the previous year while that of private treasure (gold and silver) was Rs. 12·98 crores against Rs. 4·8 crores. The principal articles contributing to the fall in merchandise were metals and ores, raw cotton, sugar, cotton manufactures, machinery and millwork, oils, cotton twist and yarn, unspecified postal articles, silk manufactures and dyeing and tanning substances.

The total value of exports of foreign private merchandise including re-exports rose from Rs. 33·11 crores to Rs. 44·41 crores but that of treasure (gold and silver) fell from Rs. 40·57 crores to Rs. 29·27 crores, the value of gold exported being Rs. 29·25 crores as compared with Rs. 38·26 crores in the previous year. The increase in exports of merchandise was chiefly attributable to larger shipments of raw cotton, seeds, unspecified postal articles, hides and skins (foreign) and cotton manufactures.

The total value of the private coasting trade of the Presidency excluding treasure increased from Rs. 47·84 crores to Rs. 50·16 crores, both imports and exports sharing in the increase. Imports rose from Rs. 21·86 crores to Rs. 23·2 crores owing

mainly to larger arrivals of raw cotton from Kathiawar, Goa and British ports within the province and rice from Burma. Imports of foreign sugar however were less by Rs. 39·91 lakhs. Exports increased from Rs. 25·98 crores to Rs. 26·96 crores chiefly as a result of larger shipments of cotton piecegoods to Burma and Sind, of raw cotton to British ports within the Province and of carriages and cars, etc., to Bengal.

The average prices of the most important commodities of imports except kerosene oil, cotton grey goods and woollen piecegoods were higher than those in the previous year. On the export side while there was a decline in the average prices of cotton seed, til or jinjili seed and cotton grey and coloured piecegoods, there was an improvement in those of the other oil seeds, rice and wool raw.

The British Empire accounted for 37·62 per cent. of the total foreign private trade. The share of the United Kingdom increased from 24·1 to 26·25 per cent., and that of Japan from 25·85 to 29·04 per cent. The shares of Germany and the United States of America however decreased from 8·36 to 7·71 per cent., and from 6·64 to 5·13 per cent., respectively.

There are 78 subordinate Customs ports in the Presidency and for administrative purposes they are grouped under 28 Talukas which are again grouped under six Ranges. Trade at the subordinate ports with foreign countries is negligible and is restricted mainly to dried fruits such as cashew nuts, cashew kernels, dates and rice. Foreign private imports amounted to Rs. 8·74 lakhs as compared with Rs. 4·96 lakhs last year and exports amounted to Rs. 20·58 lakhs against Rs. 14·96 lakhs. The coasting trade mainly represents the movements of Indian produce and manufactures from the subordinate ports to and from ports in other provinces as also between themselves. The total value of this trade rose from Rs. 6·18 crores to Rs. 6·43 crores. Exports increased from Rs. 2·54 crores to Rs. 2·82 crores but imports decreased from Rs. 3·64 crores to Rs. 3·61 crores.

The total number of vessels which entered inwards was 706 of 3,159,555 tons as against 700 of 3,156,378 tons and that which cleared outward was 598 of 2,840,541 tons against 624 of 2,897,157 tons. Of the total tonnage of 6,000,096 tons that of steam vessels of British nationality was almost equal to that in the preceding year, but that of the Japanese and of German nationalities showed increases. The tonnage of vessels of American and Norwegian nationalities however showed noticeable decreases.

The amounts of import and export duty, excluding the various cesses, collected during the year were Rs. 1,525·95 lakhs and Rs. 1·35 lakhs as against Rs. 1,576·42 lakhs and Rs. 1·61 lakhs respectively in 1935–36. The ratio of true expenditure to revenue at the Bombay Custom House during the year was 1·17 per cent., as against 1·05 per cent. in the previous year.

Treasure.—The imports of treasure increased from Rs. 6·79 crores to Rs. 12·99 crores while the exports decreased from Rs. 44·22 crores to Rs. 29·47 crores. The noticeable increase in the imports of gold on private account from Rs. 61·79 lakhs to Rs. 119·95 lakhs was due almost entirely to the United Kingdom sending sovereigns of the value of Rs. 79·54 lakhs as against Rs. 7·81 lakhs last year. Receipt of sovereigns from Other Native States in Arabia during the year was however worth Rs. 10·38 lakhs only as against Rs. 25·52 lakhs in the previous year. The sudden increase in the import of silver to nearly three times those of the preceding year chiefly represents larger despatches of bar silver by the United Kingdom which were valued at Rs. 10·88 crores as against Rs. 3·33 crores. The Commonwealth of Australia also sent bar silver worth Rs. 60·52 lakhs against Rs. 45·71 lakhs and imports from Canada and the United States of America were valued at Rs. 11·28 and Rs. 4·11 lakhs as against none last year. Exports of gold during the year gradually dwindled to less than half of what they were in 1932–33, shipments of bullion bar, etc., to the United Kingdom having fallen from Rs. 24·59 crores in 1935–36 to Rs. 14·82 crores. France also took no bullion or bar against Rs. 68·43 lakhs last year while the Netherlands reduced her demand from Rs. 79·51 lakhs to Rs. 27·28 lakhs. Shipments of gold bullion, bar, etc. to the United States of America however improved from Rs. 11·71 crores to Rs. 14·12 crores. The United Kingdom also did not import any sovereigns against Rs. 45·54 lakhs worth taken by her last year. The considerable drop in the exports of silver is attributable to a cessation of demand for bullion, bar, etc., from the United Kingdom and the United States of America which amounted to Rs. 95·5 lakhs and Rs. 82·42 lakhs respectively last year. Hongkong also did not take any British dollars and Other Native States in Arabia any Government of India rupees against Rs. 28·37 lakhs and Rs. 21·4 lakhs worth respectively last year.

PORT OF BOMBAY

The total value of the trade of the port of Bombay, foreign and coasting, including Government transactions, but excluding

treasure, was Rs. 137·96 crores as against Rs. 129·87 crores in the preceding year, foreign trade being Rs. 94·07 crores and coasting trade Rs. 43·89 crores as against Rs. 88·05 crores and Rs. 41·82 crores, respectively, in the previous year.

The total value of the foreign imports and exports into and from the port of Bombay classified under five main headings were as follows :—

	Imports		Exports	
	1935-36	1936-37	1935-36	1936-37
	Rs. Lakhs	Rs. Lakhs	Rs. Lakhs	Rs. Lakhs
Food, drink and tobacco	411·15	317·79	151·83	169·66
Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured.	1,115·76	1,036·21	2,565·82	3,444·30
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured .	3,782·18	3,464·03	436·36	545·69
Living Animals	10·80	11·52	1·56	2·55
Postal articles	127·68	94·62	141·28	257·31
Total ..	5,447·57	4,924·17	3,296·85	4,419·51

CHAPTER VI

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

THE Public Works Department has long been an important feature of the British administration in India. Its history dates from 1854 when it first came to be organised on a definite basis in succession to the old military boards, constituted mainly for the carrying out of military works.

For administrative purposes the work of the Department is divided into two sections: (*i*) Roads and Buildings and (*ii*) Irrigation.

During the year under review the Roads and Buildings Branch of the Public Works Department executed works involving a total expenditure of Rs. 107 lakhs. Among the important works in progress during the year were the additions and alterations to the Legislative Council Buildings at Bombay and Poona in order to provide accommodation for the newly constituted Upper Chamber, the construction of additional accommodation for the Police at Bombay, Sholapur and Thana, the construction of a Remand Home in the compound of the Rescue Home, Umarkhadi, Bombay, and provision of additional accommodation at the Central Mental Hospital, Yeravda.

Communications.—The important works undertaken or completed during the year, included the construction of a high level causeway over the Balganga river, cross-drainage works on Dohad-Alirajpur Road and bridges over the Patalganga, Bhamburda, Kundalika and Piyali rivers and over the Rajapur creek. Owing to scarcity conditions in parts of Bijapur, Poona, Sholapur and Broach and Panch Mahals districts many scarcity works such as metal collection, road and tank works were started wherever necessary.

Government Central Stores, Workshop and Training Centre, Dapuri.—The work done was of a varied nature and included repairs to steam road rollers, pumps of all descriptions, oil engines, steam engines, stone crushers, " Everite " specials, etc. The number of apprentices who received training was 27. During the year under report the total outturn including the closing balance was Rs. 1·39 lakhs.

Drainage and water supply.—During the year under report the pumping machinery at Pandharpur, Sholapur, Karad, Poona, Holkar's Bridge, Alandi, etc., was inspected and

necessary repairs recommended. The water supply scheme at Khed estimated to cost Rs. 1·44 lakhs was in progress. A part of the water supply project to Ardeshir Irani Road, Poona, was completed at a cost of about Rs. 10,000. Contribution works were carried out during the year at Alandi, Matheran and Poona Suburban Municipal area.

Due to rapid development of Poona City, the quantity of sewage received at the Bahiroba Pumping Station was found much more than was expected. Additional pumping sets were therefore installed at a cost of Rs. 1·07 lakhs. The expenditure on repairs and maintenance amounted to about Rs. 91,000. The total expenditure on works and repairs in connection with Public Health works amounted to Rs. 10·10 lakhs.

Electricity.—Electric supply continued to attract the attention of the public in an increasing degree. Eleven new licenses were granted during the year under report for the supply of electricity to Gadag-Betigeri, Anand, Bassein, Manmad, Ratnagiri, Chopda, Bhiwandi, Byadgi, Ranebennur, Wai and Junnar, while several additional applications were under the consideration of Government. By the end of the year under review, electricity had been introduced in 46 centres in the Province and 13 other centres were in the process of being electrified. The number of licenses actually in operation in the Province at the end of the year was 65. During the year the receipts from the electricity duty amounted to Rs. 10·06 lakhs.

IRRIGATION

Irrigation in the Province of Bombay is not compact. Rainfall which helps agricultural operations is often precarious. Tanks and canals provide water for irrigation of valuable crops such as sugarcane and also provide a source of supply to other crops when the rainfall is deficient or irregular.

The most important irrigation systems are situated in the Bombay Deccan and they are generally of the same type. Each depends upon a storage lake situated near the head of one of the river valleys, where sufficient water is collected during the monsoon to supply a tract of country on either side of the river valley below. The water stored during the rains is let out during the dry months of the year in accordance with requirements; and at a point on the river which may be as far as 50 miles from the main storage lake, a pick-up weir is constructed across the river to raise and divert the water into canals taking off on either side of the river. In one case only,

that of Lake Fife at Khadakwasla near Poona, do the canals take off directly from the dam itself. The canals are alligned with a considerably flatter slope than that of the rivers and they are consequently able to diverge from the river itself on each side of the valley, so as to obtain flow command over cultivable lands.

There are also scattered over the Province a number of old irrigation works, consisting chiefly of a few small canals and moderately large tanks. There are nearly 12,000 smaller tanks, mostly in the southern part of the Province and in Gujarat, and about 400 bandharas in Nasik and Khandesh districts. The tanks have earthen dams. The larger ones irrigate areas up to 1,300 acres and the smaller ones up to 500 acres. The chief crop irrigated is rice. The bandharas are masonry weirs built across rivers to head up the water to a level sufficient to irrigate lands on the banks of the streams by means of channels taking off from the flanks of the bandharas. The areas irrigated are up to 800 acres and the chief crops are sugarcane, wheat, bajri and gram. From these small beginnings have evolved the magnificient irrigation works which now form such a conspicuous feature in the Bombay Deccan and have so successfully fulfilled their beneficient purpose in banishing the famine which formerly devastated this portion of the Province.

Northern Circle.—The Hathmati and Khari Cut Canals are the only important canal systems in Gujarat, the other irrigation works comprising small tanks being dependent on local rainfall. During the year under review the rainfall was of very low intensity ; the supplies were in consequence poor. The total area irrigated during the year under the canals was only 129 acres as against 7,625 acres in the previous year.

Central Circle.—The Ekruk Tank near Sholapur, the Jamda Canals and the Krishna Canal are the most important irrigation works in this Circle. The Ekruk Tank supplies water for irrigational purposes and also for domestic and industrial purposes to the Municipality and Mills of Sholapur and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway administration. The area irrigated during the year with the water supplied from this tank was 4,318 acres and the gross assessed revenue (irrigational and non-irrigational) amounted to Rs. 1·51 lakhs.

Deccan Irrigation Circle.—The Mutha Canals comprise a storage reservoir at Khadakwasla near Poona, known as Lake Fife, and the Mutha Right and Left Bank Canals, which are 70 and 18 miles long, respectively. The Matoba Tank is a tail tank receiving the surplus supply of the Mutha Right Bank

Canal during the monsoon months. The storage is utilised partly for irrigation and partly for supplying water for domestic purposes to the Municipality and the Cantonments of Poona and Kirkee. The rainfall of the year was much below normal being 21·77 inches at Khadakwasla against 28·65 of the previous year. The area irrigated by this scheme during the year under report was 17,082 acres.

The Godavari Canals were completed in 1915–16 at a cost of approximately a crore of rupees. The system comprises (1) a storage reservoir, known as Lake Beale, on the Darna river, a tributary of the Godavari; (2) a pick-up-weir at Nandur Madhmeshwar, 47 miles down stream of the Darna Dam; and (3) two canals, viz., the Godavari Right and Left Bank Canals, 69 and 48 miles long, respectively. The Darna Dam, inclusive of its waste weir, is more than a mile long and has a maximum height of 92 feet above the lowest level of its foundation. The lake has a storage capacity of 7,763 million cubic feet. The weir at Nandur Madhmeshwar has a length of 3,618 feet inclusive of the Right and Left Bank regulators. Its crest is at a level of 34 feet above the river bed. The Canals irrigate lands situated in the south of Nasik District and in the north of Ahmednagar District. During the year the total area irrigated by this system was 50,283 acres.

The Pravara River works comprise (*a*) the Wilson Dam at Bhandardara 1,600 feet in length and 282 feet high from its foundation to the top of the parapets impounding a storage of some 10,000 million cubic feet, (*b*) a pick-up-weir at Ojhar, 890 feet long, and (*c*) two canals, viz., the Pravara Right and Left Bank Canals, 33 and 48 miles long, respectively. The rainfall of the year under report was very scanty. The area irrigated by this system during the year was about 53,127 acres.

The Lloyd Dam at Bhatgar 190 feet high and 5,300 feet long, is one of the largest in the world. It impounds about 24,000 million cubic feet of water and supplies water to the old Nira Left Bank Canal and the new Right Bank Canal, which are 100 and 106 miles long, respectively. The latter, which is the largest canal in the Deccan, irrigates mainly the western portion of Sholapur District, which is notoriously liable to famine. The Lloyd Dam is complete in all respects and irrigation from the Nira Right Bank Canal has now greatly increased due to the establishment of sugar factories. Owing to insufficient

rainfall there was a very keen demand for canal water on both the canals, which was fully met. The area irrigated by the Nira Right Bank Canal was 50,634 acres and by the Nira Left Bank Canal was 75,690 acres. Owing to failure of rains during the year water was issued to fodder crops at a concessional rate.

The establishment of sugar factories in this Circle will contribute towards the successful working of the Deccan Canals. Seven sugar factories have been established on the several canals and sugarcane was planted for one more factory, which is expected to be erected shortly.

Southern Circle.—The Gokak Canal is the most important irrigation work situated in this Circle. The scheme consists of a weir constructed across the Ghataprabha river at Dhupdal in Belgaum District, 16 miles of main and branch canals and 36 miles of distributaries. The system also supplies water for industrial purposes to the cotton mills at Gokak and to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company. The area irrigated during the year by this system was approximately 8,293 acres.

Expenditure, revenue and area irrigated.—The total expenditure incurred on all the irrigation works in the Province of Bombay during the year 1936-37 amounted to Rs. 24 lakhs compared with Rs. 25·7 lakhs in the previous year. The expenditure incurred on capital works, i.e., works for which both Capital and Revenue accounts are kept, amounted to Rs. 19·8 lakhs. Receipts from capital works totalled Rs. 30·7 lakhs as compared with Rs. 28 lakhs, the average of the preceding three years. The area irrigated by these works aggregated to approximately 3·14 lakhs acres compared with 2·20 lakhs acres, the average of the preceding three years. The area under irrigation by non-capital works was nearly 1·54 lakhs acres and the revenue derived therefrom amounted to Rs. 7 lakhs.

RAILWAYS

The railways situated within the Province of Bombay are not administered by this Government but are under the general control of the Railway Board.

No new traffic surveys of any railway projects were carried out during the year.

The total length of the railways in the Province (excluding Indian States) opened for traffic during the year under review was 2,390 miles made up as shown below :—

—	Broad gauge	Metre gauge	Narrow gauge	Total
	Miles	Miles	Miles	Miles
Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway ,, ..	541	121	143	805
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	822	..	62	884
Madras and Southern Mahratta Rai way ..	..	588	..	588
Barsi Light Railway	..	....	113	113
Total ..	1,363	709	318	2,390

CHAPTER VII

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL RELIEF

THERE was a decrease in the death-rate of the Presidency (27·73) during the year as compared with the figure for 1935 (28·45). The quinquennial average was 26·97. The cholera incidence was almost equal in both the years, 11,304 deaths in 1936 and 11,191 in 1935. Small-pox was comparatively mild, recording 4,320 deaths against 13,405 in 1935. The year was also noteworthy for the record low number of plague deaths reported in the Presideney (578 against 2,453 in 1935). As compared with the previous year small-pox showed a decrease of 9,085 deaths, plague 1,875, fevers 14,889 and injuries 86. A rise was recorded in cholera of 113 deaths, dysentery and diarrhœa 4,886, respiratory diseases 4,505 and other causes 3,439. Looking to the total number of deaths as well as to the mortality from the three main causes, viz. small-pox, plague and fevers, the year can be considered more healthy than 1935.

The rates, based on estimated population, also showed an improvement. The birth-rate was higher and the death-rate lower than in 1935 being 38·77 and 25·97 in 1936 against 38·51 and 26·99 in 1935 respectively. A comparison of the figures of deaths under several heads with the mean of the previous five years 1931 to 1935 shows that there was a decrease in the mortality rates under small-pox, plague and fevers from ·32 to ·24, ·61 to ·03 and 9·22 to 8·99 respectively. The death-rate from injuries (·39) was the same as the quinquennial average. Cholera recorded a rise of ·01, dysentery and diarrhœa of ·33, respiratory diseases of ·91 and other causes of ·35.

Other features of the year were an excess of births over deaths of 245,053 and a decrease in the infant mortality rate from 169·33 to 166·08 in spite of a higher birth-rate during the year.

The three omnibus headings i.e. "Fevers", "Respiratory Diseases" and "Other Causes" account for 89 per cent. mortality in this Presidency. No useful comments can be made on the deaths grouped under "Other Causes" but it

will be observed that in contrast to the progressive fall in deaths from " Fevers " the number of deaths caused by " Respiratory Diseases " is showing an increase every year. If every death coming under this heading was correctly notified, it would point to an increase in tuberculosis of the lungs. The available statistics are, in spite of the far from satisfactory method of registration, sufficient to show the menace of this disease which is increasing in towns and spreading in the rural areas from the urban areas. The death-rate from phthisis both in towns and villages has been steadily increasing since 1932; and the 1936 rate for rural areas is higher than in any year except 1930; the ratio for towns shows the same steady increase since 1932 and the ratio for 1936 is the highest except for the two years (1919 and 1920) following the pandemic of influenza. This increase is reflected in deaths from " Other respiratory diseases " under which many phthisis deaths have undoubtedly been reported.

Births and Deaths.—The European population according to the census of 1931 is 18,028. In 1936 the number of births recorded was 254 against 252 in the previous year, giving a ratio of 14·09 per mille of population against 13·98 in 1935. There were 132 deaths, equal to a death-rate of 7·32 as compared with ·83 and 4·60 respectively in 1935.

The Anglo-Indian population according to the census of 1931 is 14,176. The number of births registered was 230 against 244 in 1935. The birth-rate per mille of population for the year under report was 16·22 as compared with 17·22 in the previous year. There were 143 deaths as compared with 140 in 1935, the death-rate being 10·09 against 9·87 in the preceding year.

Among the civil Indian population of 17,932,368 according to the 1931 census 742,331 births were registered showing an increase of 14,185 over the figure for 1935. The birth-rate for the year for the Presidency was 41·40 against 40·61 in the previous year. The birth-rate on the estimated population for the year works out to 38·77.

The proportion of male to female births was 106·04 to 100. Still-births numbered 12,515 as against 12,821 in the previous year.

The year under report shows a decrease in recorded deaths as compared with the previous year. The total number of deaths registered was 497,278 in 1936; 510,270 in 1935, the

quinquennial average being 483,720. The proportion of male to female deaths was 106·06 to 100. The recorded death-rate for the Presidency worked out to 27·73 per mille ; it was 28·45 in 1935, the quinquennial mean being 26·97. The death-rate, calculated on the estimated population for the year, was 25·96.

In Bombay City the birth and death rates were 30·65 and 25·59 respectively. The infant mortality rate was 250 per 1,000 registered births as compared with 247 in 1935.

In the Presidency the male and female death-rates among Hindus were 28·68 and 28·75, among Muhammadans 23·19 and 26·58, among Parsis 14·32 and 12·96, among Christians 14·91 and 15·30 and among Jains 17·93 and 21·15.

Causes of deaths.—Deaths among all Indians totalled 497,278, cholera being responsible for 11,304, small-pox for 4,320, plague for 578, fevers for 161,150, dysentery and diarrhœa for 30,104, respiratory diseases for 111,113, injuries for 7,066 and all other causes for 171,643 deaths.

Pilgrim Centres.—The total number of pilgrims attending the Ashadi fair at Pandharpur was 91,267 as against 176,897 in 1935. The low record of attendance was due to the prevalence of cholera at Pandharpur and surrounding villages. As there was an apprehension that the disease would spread through the movements of pilgrims, Government issued a notification applying the Epidemic Diseases Act to Pandharpur and ordered that persons who were not protected by inoculation against cholera should be prohibited from entering the municipal limits of Pandharpur during the period of the fair. The medical arrangements were ready well before the pilgrims began to arrive. Seven inoculators and seven medical students were posted at the station for the medical inspection and inoculation of pilgrims. 18 inoculators and 19 medical students were on duty at the various nakas. Out of 91,267 pilgrims who visited Pandharpur, 84,780 were inoculated. The majority of the others arrived with the necessary inoculation certificates. There were 46 admissions for cholera to the Infectious Diseases Hospital of which 22 died.

Similar restrictions were enforced at the Kartiki festival at Alandi, on account of prevalence of cholera in a number of villages in Poona District. The sanitary arrangements made at the principal fairs at Nasik and Trimbak and in different parts of the Presidency were adequate and there was no outbreak of any epidemic disease.

VACCINATION

During the year 1936–37, 605,243 persons were primarily vaccinated and 222,555 were re-vaccinated against 609,795 and 447,853 in the previous year.

Of the primary vaccination performed, 570,946 or 94·33 per cent. were successful and 976 or ·16 per cent. unsuccessful. The percentage of successful re-vaccinations was 43·91. Results could not be ascertained in 43·69 per cent. of cases. During the year 1,447,310 doses of lymph were issued by the Vaccine Institute, Belgaum, as compared with 1,729,920 during the previous year.

The expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 98,665, including the amount spent for current repairs to the buildings, interest on capital outlay and pension contribution, as against the corresponding figure of Rs. 86,271 which does not include the cost of vaccine used for vaccination of calves. The cost of lymph per dose came to Re. 0–9–6. The cost of vaccination came to Rs. 4·56 lakhs against 4·57 lakhs in the previous year, the average cost of each successful case being Re. 0–11–10. Excluding Bombay and the six cantonments of Ahmedabad, Ahmednagar, Poona, Kirkee, Belgaum and Deolali, the Vaccination Act has been applied to 41 towns and 10 villages of the presidency as against 35 towns and 10 villages in 1935.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

The Vithal Sayana Hospital at Thana commenced working during the year. Extra arrangements had to be made at the G. T. Hospital and the J. J. Hospital owing to communal riots in Bombay. The Cama and Albless Hospitals celebrated their Golden Jubilee during the year and nearly Rs. 90,000 were collected for the Jubilee Fund. With a view to provide more facilities to patients more anti-rabic treatment centres were opened at the civil hospitals.

Government have decided to try the scheme of subsidising private medical practitioners in some districts. They will be paid Rs. 50 as subsidy and Rs. 25 as fixed travelling allowance per month and will be supplied with medicines and instruments up to Rs. 400 annually. One doctor will be in charge of three or four villages and he will be expected to visit them on definite days of the week. The cost will be borne equally by Government and the District Local Board concerned. Government have also undertaken a scheme of increasing the

number of qualified nurse—midwives in District Local Board dispensaries, by giving subsidies to local boards. Government have also sanctioned, as an experimental measure, the establishment of tuberculosis clinics at the civil hospitals in Ahmedabad, Surat, Poona, Sholapur, Nasik and Belgaum.

The number of institutions open at the close of 1936 was 428 and the number of patients treated was 2,895,109—105,997 in-patients and 2,789,112 out-patients. The number of patients treated at female hospitals was 86,031. The daily average attendance of indoor and outdoor patients was 4,844 and 26,856, respectively. The number of indoor patients cured was 62,867 and the mortality was 8,075, the ratio of deaths per cent. being 7·6. The total number of beds available was 6,380.

During the year 129,123 surgical operations were performed on 126,406 persons, with a mortality of 0·8 per cent.

Miscellaneous receipts, including hospital fees, charitable contributions, etc., amounted to over Rs. 7 lakhs, while over Rs. 18½ lakhs were contributed by local bodies. The net expenditure was about Rs. 45 lakhs.

HAFFKINE INSTITUTE

During the period under review, in addition to its usual multifarious activities connected with the manufacture of plague vaccine for the whole of India and other prophylactic vaccine for the province, and other routine laboratory examinations for hospitals in the city and in the districts, the Institute took up the supply of sera to Government hospitals in the Province. Arrangements were made to obtain the required sera in bulk from the State Serum Institute, Copenhagen, bottle them at the Institute and supply them to Government hospitals. Besides this routine work, important researches in connection with plague vaccine, antiplague serum, serology of plague, plague epidemiology, rat and flea destruction and pharmacological studies of new antimalarial drugs were carried out. Large quantities of antiplague, anticholera, antimeningococcus, anti-T. A. B. and antirabic vaccines were issued during the year. The working of the Institute showed an excess of expenditure over receipts. The receipts were Rs. 3·04 lakhs and the expenditure Rs. 3·12 lakhs.

Department of Pharmacology.—Valuable researches on antimalarial drugs were continued. The pharmacology of plasmoquine was studied in detail and it was found that

plasmoquine affects most of the systems of the body, more particularly the circulatory and digestive systems. Studies were also carried out to determine the part acetylcholine plays in the carriage of nerve impulses in the central nervous system.

Department of Biochemistry.—It continued to be of value both to the workers in the Institute for chemical aid in their work as well as to practitioners and hospitals for the examination of clinical material. In addition, it continued to work on establishing the normal clinical standards for Indians and is now engaged on nutritional research work.

Antirabic Department.—Since the Anti-rabic Department was opened in 1922, the popularity of the antirabic treatment has grown and in keeping with the policy of making the treatment freely available to the public there are now 69 treatment centres in the Presidency, five of which were opened during the year. During the year 5,259 treatments were issued to the out-stations and 2,331 persons were treated at the Institute. The yearly increase in the number of persons that receive anti-rabic treatment at this institute is due partly to the popularity of the anti-rabic treatment and to a great extent to the large number of stray dogs that enter the city from the suburbs and contract rabies. From the admissions it is seen that the largest number of persons bitten are from the thickly populated areas and it is in these areas that stray dogs predominate.

VETERINARY

The number of outbreaks of contagious diseases reported during the year was 3,005 as against 3,138 in the preceding year. In all 79,273 head of cattle were attacked, of which 34,542 died against 88,917 and 23,875 respectively in the previous year. The increase in mortality was due to the widespread outbreak of rinderpest, which alone was responsible for 20,725 animals. Foot and mouth disease was much less prevalent.

Rinderpest was responsible for 43,011 attacks and 20,725 deaths as against 23,326 and 11,993 respectively in the previous year. It prevailed with greatest severity in the districts of Dharwar, Kolaba, Belgaum, Nasik and East and West Khandesh. A temporary goat virus producing depot was opened at Dharwar for the prompt supply of virus.

There were 513 outbreaks of foot and mouth disease affecting 19,324 cases as against 1,185 and 51,005 respectively in the last year. Outbreaks of hæmorrhagic septicæmia were reported

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mostly from Satara, Belgaum and Bijapur districts. There were 4,602 attacks and 4,005 deaths. In 252 outbreaks of black quarter, mostly in Central and Southern Divisions, 1,660 heads of cattle were attacked resulting in 1,595 deaths. The corresponding figures of the previous year were 333; 2,577 and 2,354. Anthrax was responsible for 963 attacks and 530 deaths.

In 43 villages 2,894 cattle were protected against rinderpest by the serum alone method and in 967 villages 163,276 cattle were vaccinated by goat virus vaccine. In 567 clean villages 87,378 cattle were protected, of which only 14 died. In 64 villages 5,041 cattle were vaccinated against hæmorrhagic septicæmia before the onset of the season and in 277 villages 23,963 cattle were protected in actual outbreaks by anti-serum inoculation; of these 21 died. The number of animals protected against black quarter was 12,147 and against anthrax was 120.

The members of the subordinate staff visited 11,598 villages during the year and treated 21,219 animals for contagious diseases, 24,463 for non-contagious diseases and castrated 9,898 animals, as against 8,382; 37,581; 18,132 and 10,105, respectively in the previous year. Selected villages were regularly attended throughout the year in connection with the village uplift movement. Propaganda for the improvement of conditions under which the stock are maintained in villages, the castration of animals unsuited for breeding purposes and the protection of stock from contagious and parasitic diseases is being carried out.

There were 112 veterinary hospitals and dispensaries at the end of the year which treated 258,597 animals against 252,793 in the preceding year. The total expenditure of the Department was Rs. 4·98 lakhs.

CHEMICAL ANALYSER

The work of the Chemical Analyser to Government is connected with the protection of the public either by the examination of the data relating to crime or suspected crime or by the examination of food-stuffs, water, etc. During the year 1936 examination of 9,733 cases was undertaken by him, out of which 4,416 related to medico-legal cases, 354 were samples of Government stores, 4,787 samples of the Excise Department and 176 samples of miscellaneous articles.

In 655 cases of suspected human poisoning poison was detected in 284 cases, and in 41 cases of suspected animal

poisoning poison was detected in 15 cases. The number of stain cases sent for examination was 533.

MENTAL HOSPITALS

The over-crowding at all the mental hospitals still continues. During the year under report funds were provided to increase the accommodation at the Central Mental Hospital, Yeravda, by 250 and the work estimated to cost over Rs. 2½ lakhs was in progress. The proposals for the expansion of the mental hospitals at Ahmedabad and Dharwar have also been approved and the work will be commenced as soon as funds are provided. The new block provided by Sir Boman Behram at the Central Mental Hospital, Yeravda, for Parsee female patients was completed during the year.

Government have sanctioned the post of an Honorary Psychiatrist at the J. J. Hospital, Bombay. The incumbent of the post will also be the Honorary Professor of Psychiatry, Grant Medical College, and Honorary Physician, N. M. Mental Hospital, Thana. He will also attend the out-patients department of the J. J. Hospital and will control four beds for children suffering from mental diseases in the B. J. Hospital for Children, Bombay.

The total population of the five mental hospitals was 2,900—2,006 males and 894 females. Admissions, including re-admissions, numbered 836 and the daily average strength was 2,106. During the year 393 persons were discharged cured, 125 improved, 45 not improved and 33 discharged otherwise. The daily average number of sick treated in mental hospitals was 78·2, the percentage of sickness to the daily average strength being 3·7. The health of the patients was generally good. There were 203 deaths during the year, the percentage of deaths to the daily average strength being 9·6. The total number of criminal insanes confined in mental hospitals was 155. The employment of suitable patients on works such as gardening, weaving, tailoring, carpentry, domestic work, etc., continued as in previous years. Some of them made remarkable improvement in their condition by concentration of their mind and were discharged cured. Deducting the receipts from paying patients, etc., the net cost to Government during the year was Rs. 3·27 lakhs.

ACWORTH LEPER HOME, MATUNGA

The Acworth Leper Home was founded in the year 1890 by Mr. H. A. Acworth, C.I.E., I.C.S., the then Municipal

Commissioner for the City of Bombay, with the aid of public donations. It provides for the segregation of pauper lepers committed under the Lepers Act, 1898, and accommodates 364 lepers—240 males and 124 females.

The Board of Management consists of 20 members, of whom three are appointed by Government, five by the Municipal Corporation of the City of Bombay and 12 co-opted annually. The Home is in charge of a resident Superintendent who acts under the orders of the Board. The cost of maintaining lepers resident in Bombay City for more than five years is borne by the Municipality and that of all others by Government. The Home maintains a sewage farm, and lepers who wish to work, are provided with employment thereon and paid an allowance from the income thus derived.

The total number of persons treated as in-patients during the year, was 459—346 males and 113 females. The total number of persons treated as out-patients during the year, was 112—99 males and 13 females. There were 78 deaths during the year. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 63,197.

KONDHWA LEPER HOSPITAL, POONA

The Hospital is situated about six miles to the south of Poona near the village of Kondhwa. It was established in the year 1913 by the United Free Church of Scotland Mission to Lepers, which has its headquarters in London and which carries on most important work for sufferers from leprosy throughout India and other countries. The Hospital buildings were erected by the Mission with the assistance of a grant from Government. In 1935 a new wing was added costing about Rs. 27,000 with the help of funds provided by the Mission. The Mission provides without charge the services of a Superintendent and a Chief Medical Officer. A Subordinate Medical Officer, appointed locally, is in charge under the Superintendent.

Towards the maintenance of the Hospital, Government makes a monthly capitation grant, while the Poona City and Suburban Municipalities, the Poona Cantonment Committee, and the Poona District Local Board make grants of a fixed annual amount. The total income, including previous balance, was Rs. 18,777 and the total expenditure Rs. 18,156.

The total number of patients at the end of the year ending 30th September 1937 was 171, made up of 94 men, 71 women and 6 children. Out of this number 65 were under special

treatment. There were 20 deaths during the year. Untainted children are separated from their parents as early as possible. There were 18 such children, four of whom, being under four years of age, were kept in the creche maintained for such babies under the care of matron. The remaining 14 were in the Missionary Boarding Schools. The Indian Red Cross Society gave Rs. 100 for purchase of blankets while gifts in kind and a few donations were received from many well-wishers.

BRITISH EMPIRE LEPROSY RELIEF ASSOCIATION (INDIAN COUNCIL) BOMBAY PRESIDENCY BRANCH

The year under review again shows satisfactory and sustained progress. The total number of centres increased from 34 to 38, while the number of patients treated increased from 2,514 to 3,392, of which 1,969 were old cases and 1,423 new ones. The total attendance at the clinics was 84,247 against 66,145 in 1935. As usual a large number of patients attended intermittently and could not thus derive the full benefit from treatment. As a result of treatment absolute cures were recorded in 28 cases and clinical cures in 132 cases. Even advanced cases often exhibited marked improvement.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Only skilled labourers emigrate from the Port of Bombay and are recruited by authorised recruiting agents under agreements approved by Government. During the year under report the total number of emigrants who signed agreements before the Protector of Emigrants, Bombay, and proceeded overseas was 642 while the number of those who returned after expiry of the period of contract and termination of their agreements was 280.

During the year under review, 35 complaints were received by the Protector of Emigrants, Bombay, from emigrants against their employers. In 14 cases the complaints were found either wholly or partially well founded and the claims were admitted by their employers and the dues paid to the complainants. In 13 cases the complainants were not able to prove their case and it was found that the complaints were exaggerated. The other eight were under investigation at the end of the year.

Estates of eleven deceased emigrants amounting to about Rs. 6,500 were received during the year, and all but one were disbursed to the legal heirs after enquiries. During the year

2,563 certificates were granted to emigrants under section 4 of the Indian Emigration Act on production of satisfactory evidence to show that the emigrants have resided in the country of their destination for more than five years and are not emigrants as defined in the Act. A sum of Rs. 5,517 was recovered as registration fees from recruiting agents, while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 5,438.

There was neither immigration nor emigration of an abnormal nature during the year under report anywhere in the districts except the yearly exodus of agricultural labourers, who every year migrate to industrial centres in search of work on the termination of their harvesting season and return to their villages at the commencement of the monsoon. The inflow of labour to the irrigated tracts from the non-irrigated parts of the districts during the sugarcane crushing season continued as usual, while forest contractors and owners of gins and presses at Nandurbar employed a good many people from Gujarat and the Deccan for cutting timber and also as workers in their factories. Salt pans in Uran and Bhayandar attracted labour from Gujarat. Many persons from Surat, Broach, Kolaba and Ratnagiri districts took their families to South Africa. Owing to depression in their trade many weavers from Ilkal in Bijapur district emigrated to other parts. Owing to scarcity conditions prevailing in parts of Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Sholapur, Broach and Panch Mahals and Poona districts a number of scarcity works were opened by Government and District Local Boards to provide employment to the agriculturists near their homes. Forty-eight labourers went to Assam on plantation work from Thana District. A number of upcountry labourers were found in Bhiwandi taluka during the transplantation season.

CHAPTER VIII

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

MUNICIPALITIES

DURING the past decade the policy of Government has been to give more and more power to Local Bodies and, where control is exercised, to use that control solely for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the tax-payers, especially where Government funds have been lent for local purposes. This policy is especially noticeable in the case of municipalities. In Bombay City the powers of the Corporation are practically uncontrolled, while in the mofussil Government control has been to a very considerable extent relaxed. In addition to the Municipal Corporation of Bombay, there are in the Presidency 27 Municipal Boroughs and 103 District Municipalities. The Municipal Boroughs are governed by the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act, 1925, and the district municipalities by the provisions of the Bombay District Municipal Act, 1901.

The principal duties of municipalities lie in the direction of the provision and maintenance of public and utility services such as roads, dispensaries, water supply, sanitation and education. They have power to raise funds both by direct and indirect taxation. They have in addition power to raise loans, either from Government or in the open market, with the previous sanction of Government, for financing capital works of public utility. In the past, if the circumstances of a case required it and the local body was prepared to make adequate efforts to help itself, Government rendered assistance both by loans and grants-in-aid towards the cost of big undertakings. By this means Poona, Lonavla, Nasik, Jalgaon, Karad, Sholapur, Bijapur, Dharwar, Hubli and other towns have been provided with an improved water supply and Poona with a complete system of underground drainage. In some cases, where the question of good water supply is of more than local importance, water-works have been constructed entirely at Government expense. Pandharpur, a great pilgrim centre, is a case in point. Town improvements and the opening out of congested and insanitary areas are other objects for which Government have made liberal grants. Owing to financial stringency

Government have most reluctantly been compelled to discontinue the practice of assisting local bodies with grants. The expert advice of the officers of Government is, however, freely placed at the disposal of local bodies and reduced charges are levied by Government in the case of works of local bodies entrusted to the Public Works Department for execution. Municipalities with a population of 15,000 and over may appoint Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors and in such cases Government bear one-half of the cost of the Health Officers and one-third of the cost of Sanitary Inspectors. Municipalities are now allowed practically a free hand in the matter of selection and appointment of their Chief Officers.

The affairs of the suspended Kurla Municipality continued to be administered by the Administrator appointed by the Commissioner. The new municipality established at Dhond in the previous year began to function during the current year. The Barsi Municipality was raised to the status of a borough municipality. The supersession of the Gokak Municipality continued during the year.

The aggregate ordinary income of the municipalities, excluding items under the head "Extraordinary and Debt", increased from Rs. 188·63 lakhs to Rs. 189·79 lakhs, the increase being mainly contributed by the municipalities in the Northern Division. The incidence of taxation was highest at Matheran (Rs. 16–7–5) and lowest at Ashta (Re. 0–5–0). The aggregate expenditure, including items under the head "Extraordinary and Debt", decreased from Rs. 344·20 lakhs to Rs. 315·72 lakhs, the decrease being mainly contributed by the municipalities in the Northern and Central divisions. The loan liabilities of the various municipalities at the end of the year stood at Rs. 66·96 lakhs, the Ahmedabad Municipality alone being responsible for over Rs. 32 lakhs. About Rs. 14·79 lakhs were repaid during the year.

Government in reviewing the administration of the municipalities during 1935–36 remarked as follows :—

" * * * *

Government feel that the Commissioner, Central Division, has laid his finger on one of the main defects of municipal administration in this presidency when he points out that the boards failed 'to appoint a strong executive and to leave to it the details of administration.' It is perfectly legitimate for the elected majority of a particular municipality to lay down the lines of policy to be followed during its term of office;

but once that has been done, it is essential, in the interests of good administration, that the municipal executive should be left to carry out that policy without unnecessary interference from individual councillors belonging to the party in power. The bane of local self-government in this presidency is that there is constant interference by elected representatives even in the day-to-day administration of local affairs, with the result that it is often almost impossible to expect the healthy development of a strong and independent executive staff which can act without fear or favour.

A disappointing feature of the year under report was the fact that as many as 28 municipalities in the presidency and Sind failed to spend even 4 per cent. of their total expenditure on medical relief. This number includes important head-quarter municipalities like those of Ahmednagar, Bandra, Belgaum, Bijapur, Broach, Dharwar, Dhulia, Godhra, Jalgaon, Larkana, Nasik, Poona City, Satara City and Suburban and Surat. Government are of opinion that there is no excuse for the failure of a municipality like Bandra to provide more money for one of its most important obligatory duties like medical relief when it can afford to spend so large a sum as half a lakh of rupees on a new municipal hall.

Some of the municipalities in the presidency appear to be under the erroneous impression that it is the business of Government primarily to promote medical relief and public health in their areas. The correct position however is that medical relief and public health are obligatory responsibilities laid upon all municipalities by statute, and that Government can, at the most, render only auxiliary support. Thus if a municipality has within its area localities infected with plague it is its obligatory duty to spend as much as it possibly can on anti-plague measures even at the expense of other things, many of which fall under heads of expenditure which are purely discretionary."

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY

The income during the year was Rs. 320·58 lakhs as against Rs. 323·76 lakhs in the previous year, the main decrease being Rs. 2·70 lakhs in respect of general tax. The expenditure on the other hand increased from Rs. 312·97 lakhs to Rs. 319·30 lakhs. During the year under report Rs. 4·14 lakhs were spent for the first time under " slum service ". The year ended with a surplus of Rs. 1·28 lakhs. The incidence of taxation

per head for the year was Rs. 22-15-4 against Rs. 22-11-6 for the preceding year. Expenditure on capital works amounted to Rs. 17·14 lakhs. A loan of Rs. 18½ lakhs was raised during the year at 3 per cent. interest, while reduction of debt amounted to Rs. 44·17 lakhs. The loan liabilities of the Corporation at the close of the year stood at Rs. 15,65·25 lakhs. The total sinking fund investments amounted to Rs. 300·73 lakhs. The rates of taxation were the same as in the preceding year, except the general tax which was reduced from 12½ to 11½ per cent. The net demand in respect of property taxes was Rs. 293·87 lakhs and collection Rs. 236·96 lakhs, leaving an outstanding of Rs. 56·91 lakhs at the close of the year.

The income in respect of Improvement Schemes increased from Rs. 96·44 lakhs to Rs. 100·31 lakhs, while the expenditure decreased from Rs. 115·64 lakhs to Rs. 99·15 lakhs. Expenditure on capital works amounted to Rs. 5·65 lakhs. Reduction of debt amounted to Rs. 24·73 lakhs. The loan liabilities of the Improvement Schemes at the close of the year stood at Rs. 17,07·54 lakhs. The value of the sinking fund investments was Rs. 213·80 lakhs on 31st March 1937.

The area of developed land permanently leased increased during the year from 27·03 lakhs square yards to 32·02 lakhs square yards and the rent in respect thereof from Rs. 28·3 lakhs to Rs. 29·3 lakhs. The area of developed land remaining to be leased was 9·25 lakhs square yards against 11·3 lakhs square yards in the preceding year. The number of plots let during the year was 225 comprising an area of 62·9 acres and valued at Rs. 45·22 lakhs. One plot was sold outright for Rs. 3,785 and four plots were resumed.

The total quantity of water received from Tansa and Vehar was 33,730 million gallons, the average daily supply to the city and suburbs being 92·41 and 2·7 million gallons, respectively, against 91·79 and 2·68 million gallons in the previous year. Tulsi was in use for about 8½ months only and it supplied 384 million gallons to the suburbs. Powai remained unused. The average daily supply to the city per head increased from 76·72 gallons to 77·25 gallons.

The fire brigade answered 624 calls as against 492 in the previous year. Of the above calls 411 were in respect of actual fires and 102 false alarms. The increase was due to communal riots in the city. Eleven persons lost their lives and 13 received serious injuries at these fires, the estimated loss of property being Rs. 22·48 lakhs.

Primary education continued its progress during the year. The number of municipal schools and classes increased from 315 to 321 and the number of pupils in them from 73,460 to 74,451. The total number of ordinary teachers was 2,051 against 1,993 in the preceding year, the average number of pupils per teacher being 36·3. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 33·09 lakhs against Rs. 31·29 lakhs in the previous year. The average cost per pupil in the municipal school was Rs. 41·6.

Despite a slight increase in the death rate, the health of the city was satisfactory on the whole. The number of live births registered during the year was 35,905, the birth rate being 30·9 per 1,000 population against 29·6 in the preceding year. The total number of deaths during the year was 29,934, the death rate being 25·8 per 1,000 population. Mortality among infants (under one year of age) was 8,946 against 8,455 in the preceding year, giving a rate of 249·1 per 1,000 births registered against 245·6 in the previous year.

LOCAL BOARD ADMINISTRATION

Every Local Board is presided over by a president who is elected from amongst the non-official members of the Board. In addition, a vice-president is also similarly elected. The funds at the disposal of the boards consist chiefly of the local fund cess on Land Revenue, but there are other sources of revenue, such as proceeds of ferries, tolls on Local Board roads, quarrying fees, etc. The boards have also the power to levy, with the sanction of the Commissioner, such local taxes as a local authority is authorised to impose under section 80A (3) (*a*) of the Government of India Act. In addition, considerable grants are made by Government for education, the improvement of communications, water-supply, village sanitation, and the proper equipment and maintenance of dispensaries.

In 1935–36 Government's contribution to the expenditure of local boards under the heads Medical and Civil Works compared with the total expenditure under the respective heads was as shown below :—

	Government contribution.	Total expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
Medical	1,70,523	13,25,286
Civil Works	10,35,599	41,89,511

The greater part of the revenue is usually spent by the District Board on works of general utility to the whole district, but each taluka board has funds at its disposal to enable it to

carry out and maintain works of purely local utility for which it is primarily responsible. At least one-third of the net revenue from the local fund cess and the cess on water rate must be spent on education.

The total number of District Local Boards was 20, the same as in the previous year. Taluka Local Boards decreased from 159 to 137, owing to the abolition of the Boards in Surat, Sholapur and Belgaum districts. The total membership decreased from 3,158 to 2,796, of whom 2,177 were elected.

The aggregate income of the Boards, excluding the opening balance, increased from Rs. 191·13 lakhs to Rs. 192·59 lakhs. The incidence of taxation was highest in Broach (Re. 0–9–10) and lowest in Ratnagiri (Re. 0–1–7). The total expenditure was Rs. 190·46 lakhs as against Rs. 156·32 lakhs in the preceding year.

Government in reviewing the administration of the Local Boards for the year 1935–36 remarked as follows :—

" * * * * *

The administration of the boards was on the whole satisfactory and the majority of these bodies evinced a spirit of co-operation with Government officers especially of the Revenue and Public Health Departments in matters connected with the rural uplift scheme. Among public works undertaken by boards, the completion of the Raita Bridge during the year by the District Local Board, Thana, was a notable achievement.

Government are concerned to note that while new village panchayats are springing up as the result of the stimulus provided by the village improvement scheme, many of the existing panchayats are not functioning satisfactorily. It is however encouraging to find that certain panchayats in the Broach and Kaira Districts are doing excellent work and it is hoped that their example will be followed by panchayats in other districts. The District Local Board, Sholapur, continued to show keen interest in the village uplift scheme and its attitude in this respect has stimulated the progress of several beneficent activities for the general improvement of conditions in the rural areas of the District.

There has been a marked improvement in the facilities provided by District Local Boards in the Central Division for the admission of children belonging to the scheduled classes into public schools without restriction. There has not been the same progress however in the matter of throwing open of public wells to members of the scheduled classes, especially

in the Northern Division. The Commissioner, Northern Division, has been constrained to remark in this connection that 'it seems clear that in most cases the solution is the provision of separate wells for them'.

It is satisfactory to note that some District Local Boards in the Southern Division made serious efforts to combat epidemic diseases. Special mention must be made in this connection of the District Local Board, Bijapur, which employed two medical officers throughout the year to combat epidemic diseases and to look after the general sanitation and health of the rural areas. This Board has not however been similarly progressive in the sphere of primary education as it has failed to build new schools which are urgently needed, notwithstanding large accumulated balances composed of local fund cess collected at enhanced rate.

The financial position of the District Local Board, Dharwar, is very unsatisfactory and the time has come for it to review this position and find means to augment its resources so as to discharge its obligations adequately. Many of the District Local Boards in the Presidency have still to show improvement in the matter of efficient budgeting of works. The deficiency in this respect is apparent from the large balances held at the end of the year which are partially due to the non-completion of budgeted works.

During the year under report, legislation was passed empowering Government to abolish taluka local boards, wherever necessary. This has resulted in the abolition with effect from 1st October 1935 of all the taluka local boards in the Surat, Sholapur and Belgaum districts.

Another important piece of legislation passed by the Council during the September-October Session of 1936 was the widening of the franchise for district and taluka local boards to the same extent as that prescribed for the Bombay Legislative Assembly under the new Constitution. It is hoped that as a result of this legislation the backward and Scheduled classes will be enabled to come into the representational scheme of local boards in a more satisfactory manner than at present.

In a recent case brought to the notice of Government, a District Local Board, notwithstanding the Commissioner's advice to the contrary, punished inadequately an overseer who was proved to be guilty of dishonest practice in the course of his duty. This case is cited as an instance to show how some boards do not yet realise fully their public responsibilities.

In the opinion of Government any tolerance by a local body of dishonesty on the part of a member of its staff is contrary to the interests of the public who contribute to the funds of the local body in the hope that such funds will be guarded in a spirit of trusteeship."

BOMBAY PORT TRUST

The Port of Bombay shared in the world-wide recovery from trade depression. The result of the year's working was a surplus of Rs. 14·74 lakhs on general account as compared with a surplus of Rs. 2·26 lakhs last year. The increase in earnings occurred mainly under railway, land estates and the bunders. Receipts from docks, the principal revenue-earning department of the Trust, showed no material variation. The trustees continued their policy of granting relief to trade by reductions of rates and charges wherever possible.

The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 247·53 lakhs as against Rs. 242·93 lakhs in the previous year. On the other hand the expenditure decreased from Rs. 239·75 lakhs to Rs. 232·52 lakhs. The ratio of working expenses to revenue in the year under review was 49·42 per cent., a decrease of about 0·63 per cent. on that of the previous year. The surplus of Rs. 14·74 lakhs under general account was transferred to the Revenue Reserve Fund. In addition to the Revenue Reserve Fund of Rs. 68·98 lakhs, the actual market value of which on 1st April 1937 was Rs. 64·69 lakhs, the accumulated sinking funds and equated loan repayments amounted to Rs. 662·06 lakhs, while adequate reserves totalling Rs. 34·12 lakhs were set aside for special purposes, such as fire insurance, depreciation and emergency replacements. Capital works financed out of Revenue Reserve during the years 1916 to 1921 amounted to Rs. 47 lakhs. A 3½ per cent. loan of Rs. 48·04 lakhs was raised internally during the year for replacement of the 4 per cent. foreshore securities. The capital balances in hand at the end of the year were Rs. 14·24 lakhs.

The cargo handled at the docks and bunders amounted to 5,460,000 tons, an increase of 142,000 tons over that of the previous year. Imports accounted for about 55 per cent. and exports for 45 per cent. of the total tonnage. The increase in tonnage was equivalent to 2·6 per cent. Imports decreased by 5·12 per cent., while exports increased by 13·9 per cent.

The fumigation of American cotton imported into India through this port was continued throughout the year. Only

9,007 bales were imported as compared with 68,665 in the preceding year.

Vessels which entered the docks or were berthed at the harbour walls (excluding ferry-steamers) totalled 1,954, with an aggregate tonnage of 4,998,513 net register as against 1,950 vessels with a tonnage of 5,096,662 in the preceding year. The dry docks were occupied by 149 vessels as against 170 in 1935-36. The total tonnage was 543,739 tons, being 109,049 tons less than in the previous year. The Ballard Pier berth was used by 168 vessels during the year, and 367 postal and passenger trains were run to and from the station, connecting with the incoming and outgoing mail steamers and other large passenger liners. The additional passenger berth on the Alexandra Dock harbour wall accommodated 62 vessels.

The Docks Hamallage (Labour) Department dealt with all demands for labour and the attendance of the labourers continued to be satisfactory. The average number engaged daily was 1,888, the maximum employed on a single day being 4,184. The total volume of goods handled by Port Trust labour during the year amounted to 3,083,796 tons, the inclusive labour charges averaging 3·74 annas per ton as against 3·84 annas per ton in the preceding year.

The Bunders generally presented a busy appearance. Keen competition between coasting steamship companies operating at the New Ferry Wharf resulted in substantial reductions in the passenger fares. Improved facilities for the handling of fresh fish have been provided at Sassoon Dock. Mechanically propelled fishing vessels are now coming into prominence and every inducement is being offered to the fish trade to increase its traffic.

In regard to the land estates there was a markedly increased demand for accommodation from the grain and seeds trade. The development of Apollo Reclamation is now practically completed. The Ryan Grain Market was fully let. Land measuring about 4,950 square yards at Cumballa Hill and 67,682 square yards at Wadala was leased during the year.

The foreign inward and outward traffic on the Port Trust Railway aggregated 1,722,000 tons as against 1,417,000 tons in the preceding year, the principal increases being in cotton, rice and manganese ore.

Capital expenditure during the year was restricted to essential works and amounted to only Rs. 3·39 lakhs.

CHAPTER IX

COLLECTION OF REVENUE AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

THE Revenue Administration of the Bombay Presidency is carried on by the following officers working under the orders of Government :—

Three Commissioners, 20 Collectors and a varying number of Assistant Collectors. All these officers, with the exception of six holding the position of Collectors, who belong to the Bombay (Provincial) Civil Service, are members of the Covenanted Civil Service. In addition to the officers mentioned above, there are 36 Deputy Collectors. They are divided for purposes of pay into three grades and are generally District Deputy Collectors in charge of revenue sub-divisions of districts, or Assistant Commissioners or Personal Assistants to Collectors.

A Collectorate contains on an average ten talukas each of which comprises about one hundred Government villages, that is, villages that are not alienated and the total revenues of which belong to the State. Each village has its regular complement of officers, a large number of whom are hereditary. The officers on whose services Government in the Presidency proper is mainly dependent are the patil, who is the head of the village for both revenue and police purposes ; the talati or the kulkarni, who is the clerk and accountant ; the mahar, who is a kind of beadle ; and the watchman. The patil and the kulkarni either hold a certain quantity of rent-free land or are remunerated by a cash payment equivalent to a certain percentage on the collections.

The mahar and the watchman, in common with other village servants, also hold land on more or less favourable terms as regards assessment, and receive in addition grain and other payments in kind from the villagers. The remaining servants are the carpenter, blacksmith, potter, barber, and others whose services are necessary to the community. A village is for Government or social purposes complete in itself, so its revenue accounts are simple but complete. They are based on the Record of Rights. Every plot of land held by an occupant is separately measured, assessed and entered in the Record in the name of the person or persons in actual possession of it. The land revenue demand is based on this Record which is thus both a Record of Rights as well as of liability.

In charge of each taluka of a Collectorate there is an officer termed MAMLATDAR.

AN ASSISTANT OR DEPUTY COLLECTOR is placed in revenue charge of a sub-division which contains on an average four talukas.

THE COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE is in charge of the whole district. Besides superintending the realisation of the land revenue, the duties of administering the collection of excise and other special taxes and of supervising the stamp revenue devolve upon the Collector as executive head of the district.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONERS, of whom there are three for the Presidency, exercise a general superintendence and control over the revenue administration of the districts in their charge.

The annual BUDGET for 1936–37 was presented to the Council during February.

ACCOUNTS FOR 1936–37

As Sind was separated from the Bombay Presidency the closing balance of 1935–36 was apportioned between Bombay and Sind under the Government of India (Constitution of Sind) Order, 1936. The closing balance for Bombay, excluding the share allocable to Sind, was about one and a half crores of which the free balance was 18 lakhs. There being no separate account figures for Bombay alone for 1935–36, no exact comparison is possible between that year and 1936–37. The figures for Bombay including Sind for 1935–36 have been analysed as carefully as possible and figures which relate to Bombay alone isolated. It is not possible, however, to ascertain the figures under the heads "Interest" and "Appropriation or Avoidance of Debt" and "Debts and Deposits" as the debt was allocated between Bombay and Sind with effect from 1st April 1936.

Principal heads of revenue and irrigation heads.—As compared with 1935–36 Land Revenue showed a decrease of 30 lakhs while the irrigation heads showed an increase of 1½ lakhs. The 1935–36 figures included large collections of arrears of past suspensions in the concluding months of that year.

The excise revenue realised during 1936–37 was 325¼ lakhs as against 333½ lakhs in 1935–36. The decrease was partly under "Country spirits" due to fall in license fees and still head duty as a result of scarcity in some districts and disturbances in Bombay City and partly under "Wines and spirits" due to the falling off in the consumption of foreign liquor (imported as well as Indian made).

The revenue under stamps showed an increase of 4¼ lakhs mainly due to abnormal receipts on account of probate duty partially counterbalanced by lower receipts from sale of court-fee stamps and non-judicial stamps.

The forest revenue for the year amounted to 47·7 lakhs compared with 52·1 lakhs in 1935–36. The decrease was due to smaller receipts under "I—Timber and other produce removed through Government agency" on account of the closure of the saw mill at Mandurli and the withholding of fresh contracts in Gund range on account of the revision of the Gund working plan, and under "II—Timber and other produce removed by consumers or purchasers" due to low prices realised from the sale of royalty trees in the malki lands of the Kolaba Division, termination of long term grass contracts in the Panch Mahals Division and reduction in the areas of closed coupes sold for grass cutting as a result of the reduction in the normal period of closure.

The revenue under IX-A, Scheduled Taxes amounted to 19¾ lakhs in 1936–37 against 17¼ lakhs in 1935–36. The increase was partly due to the receipt in 1936–37 of revenue of about a lakh which should have been credited in 1935–36.

The total receipts under "Civil Administration" showed a net increase of 29¾ lakhs. The main increases were under "XXV—Industries" (3 lakhs) owing to larger receipts from fees for verification of stamping of weights and measures and under "XXVI—Miscellaneous Departments" (27¾ lakhs) due to receipts from the Bombay Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1935, which was brought into operation during the year, counter-balanced by decrease in receipts of registration and license fees under the Indian Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, which were reduced after the introduction of the former Act.

Under "Miscellaneous" there was an increase of 2½ lakhs made up of half a lakh under "XXXII—Transfers from Famine Relief Fund," one lakh under "XXXIII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation" mainly due to the recovery of pension charges in respect of officers of joint services lent to the Government of Sind and one lakh under "XXXIV—Stationery and Printing" for printing work done for the Sind Government.

Extraordinary receipts during the year amounted to 12¾ lakhs, mainly on account of Dangs revenue received from the Government of India, compared with 29½ lakhs in 1935–36 which included 29 lakhs on account of the sale proceeds of securities.

Expenditure.—Compared with 1935–36 there was an increase of 2¼ lakhs under "Direct demands on revenue", mainly (1¾ lakhs) under "6, Excise" due to large expenditure under contingencies of the Dhadgaon and Nasik distilleries, the contribution to the Forest Department on account of establishment charges in the Akrani tract, charges on account of a private distillery at Chowka and larger purchases of opium.

Under "Civil Administration" there was a net increase of 31 lakhs in 1936–37 as compared with 1935–36 mainly under the following heads :—

An increase of 2¾ lakhs occurred under "22-General Administration" due to extra expenditure required for elections to Provincial Legislatures. Under "24-Administration of Justice" there was an increase of 1¼ lakhs due to temporary appointments of High Court Judges and their staff and repayment by the Administrator General to two estates of certain advances which became irrecoverable. Under "26-Police" the increase of one lakh was due partly to increase in the strength of the Bombay City Police and partly to extra expenditure in connection with the communal riot in Bombay City, heavy repairs to police chowkis, etc.

An increase of 5½ lakhs occurred under "31-Education" mainly due to the percentage cut in grants to local bodies for primary education being reduced from 11 to 8 per cent. and increased expenditure for building and equipment grants and extra expenditure in connection with the introduction of the bifurcation scheme in arts and science courses in Government Arts Colleges.

An increase of 1¼ lakhs occurred under "35-Industries" due to increase in the contingent expenditure of the Director of Industries on account of the additional departments created under his charge, additional establishment required for the extension of the Bombay Weights and Measures Act and the Director's Office and extra expenditure on the handloom industry and preliminary arrangement for starting apprentice schemes for boys to relieve unemployment among the better educated classes.

The increase of 17½ lakhs under "37-Miscellaneous Departments" was due to expenditure in connection with the administration of the Bombay Motor Vehicles Act (collection charges, compensation to local bodies, etc.) and transfer to the Provincial Road Fund (9 lakhs).

Under "Civil Works" there was an increase of about 21 lakhs due mainly to larger expenditure on works financed from Central Road Fund, ordinary works and scarcity works undertaken on account of famine in certain districts.

Under "Miscellaneous" there was an increase of 4¾ lakhs due to (1) 2 lakhs spent on relief of famine under "43-Famine Relief", (2) ¾ lakh under "45-Superannuation Allowances and Pensions" and (3) 1½ lakhs under "Stationery and Printing" on account of the consumption of a large quantity of paper in printing electoral rolls, voting papers forms, etc. for the elections to Provincial Legislatures and larger demand for stationery articles from the Sind Government and for newly created offices.

Debt Section.—In the year under review no amounts were borrowed from the Government of India and the capital expenditure during the year was met from balances.

Statement showing Receipts in 1936-37

(Figures in thousands of Rupees)

Principal Heads of Revenue				
III—Salt	..	..	..	2
V—Land Revenue	..	..	..	3,44,32
VI—Excise	..	..	..	3,25,29
VII—Stamps	..	..	..	1,46,99
VIII—Forest	..	..	..	47,72
IX—Registration	..	..	..	15,05
IX-A—Scheduled Taxes	..	..	..	19,72
		Total	..	8,99,11
Irrigation, etc.				
XIII—Irrigation	..	..	..	13,45
XIV—Irrigation	..	..	..	6,61
		Total	..	20,06

ACCOUNTS FOR 1936-37

(Figures in thousands of Rupees)

Debt Service

Principal Heads of Revenue	
XVI—Interest	93,34

Civil Administration

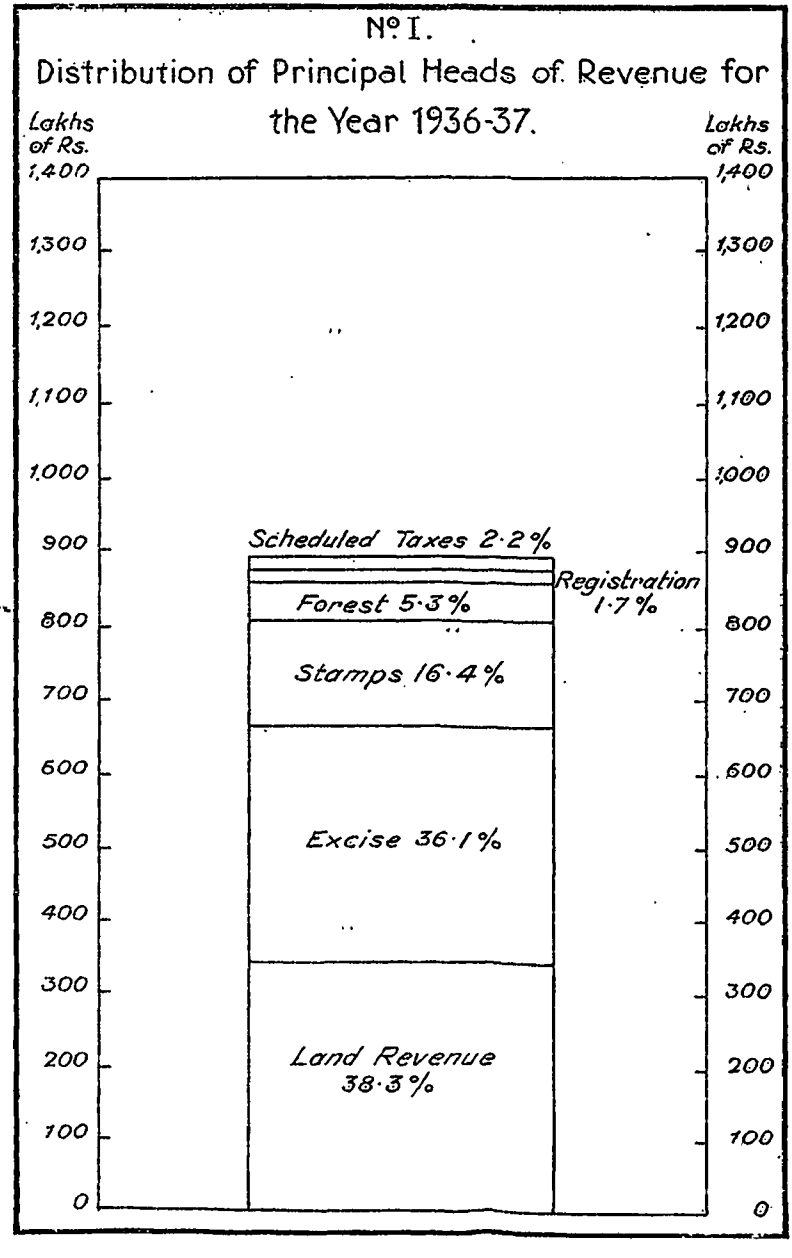
XVII—Administration of Justice	15,01
XVIII—Jails and Convict Settlements	4,95
XIX—Police	6,85
XXI—Education	14,93
XXII—Medical	14,13
XXIII—Public Health	19,08
XXIV—Agriculture	4,66
XXV—Industries	6,51
XXVI—Miscellaneous Departments	42,90
Total ..	1,29,02

Civil Works

XXX—Civil Works	31,98
XXXI—Bombay Development Scheme	6,84
Total ..	38,82

Miscellaneous

XXXII—Transfers from Famine Relief Fund ..	2,05
XXXIII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	8,93
XXXIV—Stationery and Printing	3,61
XXXV—Miscellaneous	32,08
Total ..	46,67
XL—Extraordinary Receipts	12,74
Receipts in England	4
Total, Revenue Section ..	12,39,80


No. I.
Distribution of Principal Heads of Revenue for the Year 1936-37.
Lakhs of Rs.
1,400
1,300
1,200
1,100
1,000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
Scheduled Taxes 2·2%
Registration 1·7%
Forest 5·3%
Stamps 16·4%
Excise 36·1%
Land Revenue 38·3%

ACCOUNTS FOR 1936-37

(Figures in thousands of Rupees)

Debt Heads

Famine Relief Fund	1,12
Transfers from Famine Relief Fund	2,74
Appropriation for Reduction or Avoidance of Debt ..	18,14
Deposits of Depreciation Fund of Government Presses ..	21
Deposits of Depreciation Reserves of Nasik Distillery ..	1,13
Provincial Road Fund	8,98
Deposit account of grants for the economic development and improvement of rural areas	14
Loans and Advances by Provincial Government ..	75,83
Subventions from Central Road Development Account ..	19,36
Civil Deposits	2,93
Decentralised balances under unfunded Debt Deposits of Local Funds, Departmental and Judicial Deposits and Advances repayable	4,66,17
Total, Debt Heads ..	5,96,75
Total Receipts	18,36,55
Opening Balance	1,48,22
Grand Total ..	19,84,77

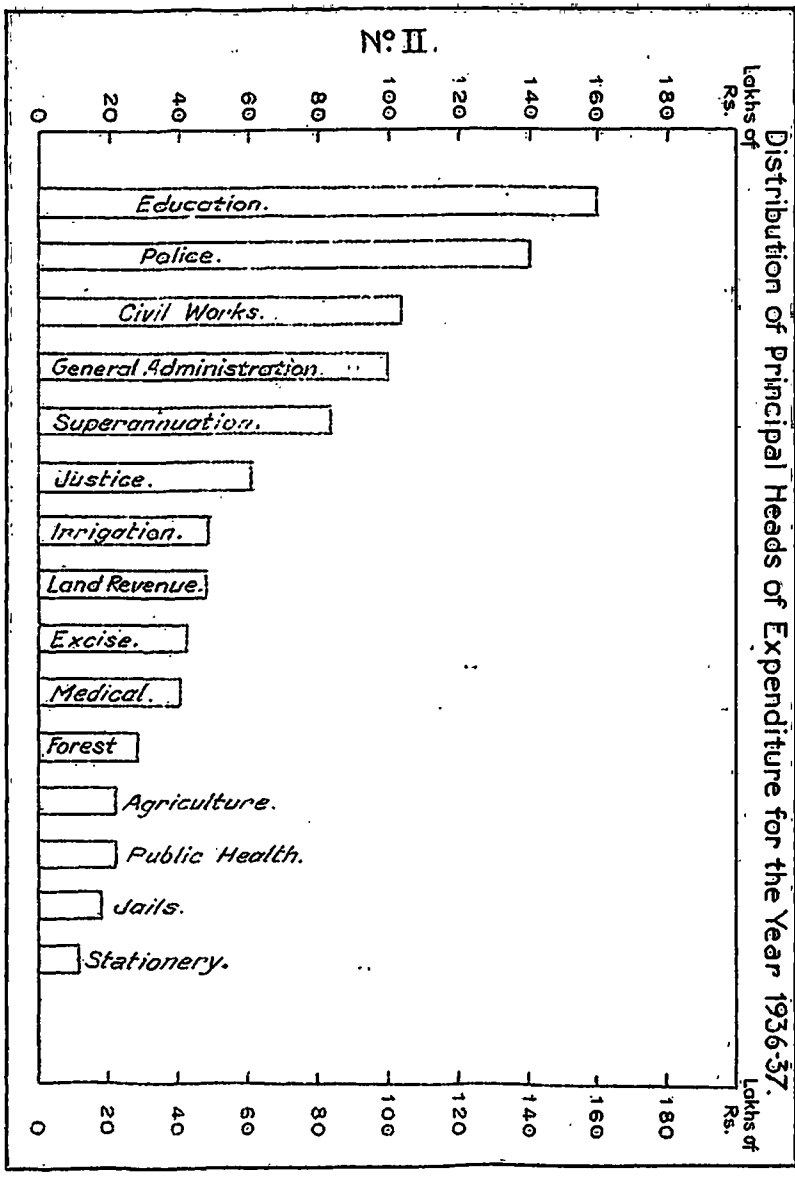
Statement showing expenditure in 1936-37

Direct Demands on Revenue

5, Land Revenue	46,61
6, Excise	41,49
7, Stamps	1,98
8, Forest	27,58
8-A, Forest Capital Outlay	49
9, Registration	5,49
9-A, Scheduled Taxes	22
Total ..	1,23,86

Irrigation Revenue Account and Capital Account charged to Revenue

14, Irrigation (Interest)	41,89
15, Irrigation	6,31
Total ..	48,20



Debt Services

19, Interest		1,44,31
21, Reduction or Avoidance of Debt		18,14
Total ..		1,62,45

(Figures in thousands of Rupees)

Civil Administration

22, General Administration	1,00,30
24, Administration of Justice	61,05
25, Jails and Convict Settlements	17,49
26, Police	1,39,96
27, Ports and Pilotage	5
30, Scientific Departments	96
31, Education	1,58,57
32, Medical	40,41
33, Public Health	22,45
34, Agriculture	21,84
35, Industries	6,48
37, Miscellaneous Departments	24,47
Total ..	5,94,03

Civil Works

41, Civil Works	1,05,33
42, Bombay Development Scheme	3,68
Total ..	1,09,01

Miscellaneous

43, Famine	2,05
45, Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ..	82,61
45-A, Commutation of Pensions financed from ordinary revenue	6
46, Stationery and Printing	11,69
47, Miscellaneous	23,36
Total ..	1,19,77
52, Extraordinary charges	9
Expenditure in England	42,06
Total, Expenditure charged to Revenue ..	11,99,47

(Figures in thousands of Rupees)

Capital Account not charged to Revenue

55, Construction of Irrigation Works	2,59
56-A, Capital Outlay on improvement of Public Health ..	1,75
59, Bombay Development Scheme	10,02
60, Civil Works not charged to Revenue	3
60-B, Payment of commuted value of pensions ..	4,26
61, Payments to retrenched personnel	—46
Total, Capital Account not charged to Revenue ..	18,19

Debt Heads

Permanent Debt discharged	5,98
Famine Relief Fund	64,87
Deposits of Depreciation Fund of Government Presses ..	21
Deposits of Depreciation Reserves of Nasik Distillery ..	15
Loans and Advances by Provincial Government ..	29,59*
Advances from the Provincial Loans Fund	83,57
Provincial Road Fund	4,74
Subvention from Central Road Development Account ..	19,68
Deposit account of grant for the economic development and improvement of rural areas	1,80
Civil Deposits	2,85
Other decentralised heads such as Advances repayable, Permanent Advances, etc.	4,17
Adjustment from decentralised balances in cancellation of pre-reform irrigation debt	4,02,06
Total, Debt Heads ..	6,19,67
Total, Disbursements ..	18,37,33
Closing Balance ..	1,47,44
Grand Total ..	19,84,77

*Includes amounts due to Central Government on account of advances to Government servants (2,64) and loan to Bombay Municipality (13,30) for Vehar Water Works transferred to the Government of Bombay on decentralisation.

PUBLIC WORKS REVENUE

The Public Works Revenue during the year under review amounted to Rs. 31·98 lakhs, the principal items being rents of buildings, tolls on roads (arrears), transfer from the Central Road Development Account and receipts of a miscellaneous nature. The above figure does not include receipts pertaining to the Central Government.

LAND REVENUE

(Figures in lakhs of Rupees)

—	Demand	Collections	Suspensions	Remissions
Northern Division	133·81	104·02	19·13	9·49
Central Division	178·42	160·09	15·75	2·54
Southern Division	127·88	96·31	23·19	7·98
Bombay Collectorate	6·27	5·83	....	....
Total ..	446·38	366·25	58·07	20·01

EXCISE

The gross excise revenue decreased from Rs. 3,29·51 lakhs to Rs. 3,22·67 lakhs, a decrease of Rs. 6·84 lakhs, but the whole of this decrease was not real. There was an apparent decrease of Rs. 2·78 lakhs in the foreign liquor license fees in Bombay because the fees recoverable in 1934–35 were actually recovered and credited in 1935–36 owing to the introduction of the monthly instalment system. The real decrease in gross revenue was about Rs. 4·68 lakhs only, the items mainly responsible for the decrease being still head duty, opium, toddy, foreign liquor, hemp drugs and the Nasik Distillery, partly counter-balanced by increases under tree-tax and country spirit license fees in Bombay. The adverse economic conditions which continued during the year were reflected in the decreased consumption of foreign spirits, opium and hemp drugs and in an increase in the consumption of foreign fermented liquors and in the tapping of more toddy producing trees. The consumption of country spirit would have also declined but for the increased consumption of licit and decreased consumption of illicit liquor. The manufacture of denatured spirit at the Nasik Distillery was discontinued during the year.

The expenditure for the year exclusive of compensation paid to Indian States, the Bombay Municipality and the District Local Boards was Rs. 32·93 lakhs against Rs. 30·64 lakhs in the previous year. The increase was mainly due to increased expenditure under the heads " Pay of officers and Establishment," " Contingencies and special charges other than rewards " and " Cost of opium supplied to the Excise Department."

The revenue under country spirit amounted to Rs. 1,55·27 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1,58·07 lakhs in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 2·80 lakhs. The total ration fixed for 1936–37 was 17·69 lakhs as against 17·65 lakhs proof gallons in the previous year. The total consumption of country spirit increased from 1,040,197 to 1,040,272 proof gallons.

The revenue under toddy amounted to Rs. 71 lakhs during 1936–37 as against Rs. 71·15 lakhs in the previous year. The quantity of toddy sold during the year was 1,26·22 lakhs gallons as against 128·29 lakhs gallons sold during the previous year. The total number of trees tapped for the sale of toddy increased from 4·24 lakhs to 4·45 lakhs. The decrease of 2·07 lakhs gallons in the reported total sales of toddy cannot be reconciled with the increase of trees licensed for tapping, and merely emphasises the unreliability of the licensees' toddy consumption figures, which it is not possible to check. It is however beyond question that, especially in urban areas, toddy on account of its cheapness, is largely taking the place of country liquor among the poorer classes.

The total revenue under " Foreign liquor " showed a decrease of Rs. 3·02 lakhs from Rs. 33·95 lakhs in 1935–36 to Rs. 30·93 lakhs in 1936–37, most of the decrease being only apparent as explained above. There was an increase in the consumption of fermented liquors from 923,883 to 946,440 bulk gallons due to greater consumption of beer on account of its cheapness.

The revenue from intoxicating drugs amounted to Rs. 18·12 lakhs as against Rs. 18·07 lakhs in the previous year. The consumption in seers of ganja, bhang and charas was 25,478, 8,107 and 6,238, respectively, during the year, as against 25,722, 8,485 and 6,947, respectively, in the preceding year. The decrease in the consumption of ganja was most noticeable in Kaira, Sholapur, Poona, Ahmednagar and Nasik districts and was due to the high prices charged by the licensees and the economic circumstances of the year. On the other hand sales of this drug in Ahmedabad, Surat and Satara districts showed a remarkable increase, attributed to low retail prices charged by competing retailers. The consumption of bhang increased for the same reason in Ahmedabad and Surat districts. In Ahmedabad the consumption of charas increased owing to competitive selling prices, while in Bombay it dropped owing to the riots and high prices.

The grant of separate cocaine and morphia licenses to chemists, druggists and medical practitioners was, in accordance

with the Bombay Dangerous Drugs Rules, 1935, discontinued and combined licenses in the new forms D.D. 1, D.D. 2 and D.D. 3 were issued. The quantity of cocaine and its allied drugs imported during the year under report amounted to 16 lbs. 2 ozs. and 274¼ grains as against 19 lbs. 6 ozs. and 321½ grains in the previous year. The quantity sold under licenses was 15 lbs. 4 ozs. and 228¼ grains, compared with 22 lbs. 4 ozs. and 321¼ grains in 1935–36.

The opium revenue was Rs. 19·91 lakhs as against Rs. 20·59 lakhs in the previous year, the decrease being due to fall in consumption. The net profit to Government from the issue of opium from the depots was Rs. 8·46 lakhs as against Rs. 8·79 lakhs in the previous year. The sales of opium were 15,104 seers against 16,071 seers in the previous year.

The extension of section 18-B of the Bombay Abkari Act to the whole Presidency has been useful in controlling the illicit traffic in mahura flowers and has helped to check illicit distillation. Six licenses for the retail sale of mahura flowers were granted in the Panch Mahals Sub-Division of the Broach and Panch Mahals District during the year. The grant of permits for possession of mahura flowers was restricted to *bona-fide* trade and industrial purposes. The arrangement whereby licenses, passes and permits are issued by Excise Officers under the control of Superintendents of Excise continued to work satisfactorily.

The total number of cases detected was 7,806 against 10,021 in the preceding year. Of these 7,327 related to liquor, 468 to hemp drugs and 11 to cocaine as against 9,415, 556 and 50, respectively, in the previous year. Offences relating to illicit distillation showed a decrease as compared with those of the preceding year, the decrease being mainly in the districts of West Khandesh, Panch Mahals and Kaira. There was also a general decrease in the number of cases under illicit importation, exportation, transportation and possession, unlicensed sale and other miscellaneous offences. One of the measures adopted to check illicit distillation is the purchase for the Nasik Distillery of as much as is available of the mahura flowers produced in the Presidency. Besides the purchase of such mahura flowers some of the Kaju fruit grown in the Ratnagiri district was also utilised for distilling kaju liquor at the Chowka Distillery in that district. The measures have met with some success in the replacement of illicit liquor by licit liquor in certain areas noted for illicit distillation and importation.

CHAPTER X

INSTRUCTION

THE control of public instruction of all kinds is exercised by Government chiefly through the Director of Public Instruction. In the case of education in art the control is, however, exercised through the Director, Sir J. J. School of Art, and in the case of technical and industrial education through the Director of Industries. Questions relating to higher education are dealt with directly by Government through the University. The four Divisional Inspectors are directly responsible to the Director of Public Instruction for the supervision of all primary schools, the administrative control of all Government institutions (except colleges) and the control and inspection of all anglo-vernacular schools, training institutions for primary teachers and other special schools under the Educational Department. The general control of technical and industrial education lies with a Committee of Direction composed of officials and non-officials.

The University alone has the power of conferring degrees recognised by Government. It also provides facilities for post-graduate teaching. Affiliated to the University are the colleges, which prepare students for the University examinations.

The Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, opened in 1920, provides facilities for post-graduate research work in science in addition to the ordinary degree courses in science.

Below the colleges come the high schools usually at least one, either Government or aided, at the head-quarter town of each district. These prepare students for the Matriculation examination which is now controlled directly by the University.

Side by side with the high schools there are the middle schools which teach the first few standards only of the secondary school course of seven standards. There are also in some places separate high and middle schools for girls.

Below the secondary schools are a large number of primary schools both for boys and girls in which instruction is given in the vernacular to the vast mass of the people.

There are also institutions for the training of teachers for both secondary and primary schools maintained by Government, viz., the Secondary Training College, Bombay, and the Vernacular Training Colleges for Men and Women at Ahmedabad, Poona, Dhulia (for men only) and Dharwar. Additional classes in the Vernacular Training Institutions were opened during the year 1935–36 with a view to increasing the out-put of trained teachers.

For education in art there are the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, and the Reay Art Workshops attached to it, while for technical and industrial education there are the V. J. Technical Institute, Bombay, which is now recognised as the central technological institution for the Presidency, the Workshop classes of the College of Engineering, Poona, and a number of technical and industrial schools, notably the Ranchhodlal Chhotalal Technical Institute, Ahmedabad, the Parekh School of Art, Surat, the Sir D. M. Petit Industrial School, Ahmednagar, and the School of Industry at Ratnagiri.

For the proper selection of text-books for use in secondary and primary schools there are five special committees ; one known as the Provincial School Book Committee for the consideration of books for use in secondary schools, and four Vernacular School Book Committees for the consideration of books in Marathi, Gujarati, Kanarese and Urdu.

The Provincial Board for Anglo-Indian and European Education was constituted during the year 1934–35 as a result of the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee of the Round Table Conference on the education of the Anglo-Indian and domiciled European community in India. In addition to the Provincial Board, an Inter-Provincial Board for Anglo-Indian and European Education was constituted during the same year. The representatives of the Bombay Government on this Board are the Hónourable the Minister for Education or his Deputy and a person nominated by His Excellency to represent Anglo-Indian schools.

On the Central Advisory Board of Education, which was revived in 1935–36 the Bombay Government is represented by either the Honourable the Minister for Education (or his Deputy) or the Director of Public Instruction (or his Deputy). The function of the Board is to advise on any educational question which may be referred to it by the Government of India or by any Local Government.

EDUCATION

[The figures in the summary relate to institutions in British Districts only]

Institutions and Pupils.—The total number of educational institutions increased by 337 to 14,609 and the number of pupils in them by 45,412 to 1,335,889.

Out of a total of 21,668 towns and villages, 8,975 possessed schools, the average area served by each town or village with a school being 8·6 square miles. The percentage of male scholars under instruction in all kinds of institutions to the total male population was 10·86 as against 10·59 in the preceding year. The corresponding percentages of female scholars to the female population were 3·79 and 3·56 respectively.

The total number of pupils under instruction in recognised institutions increased by 46,718 to 1,299,569. Of these, 1,029,064 were Hindus, 168,320 Muhammadans, 41,318 Indian Christians, 17,251 Parsis and 5,158 Europeans and Anglo-Indians. The rest numbered 38,458 and comprised 35,048 Jains, 450 Sikhs, and 2,960 Jews and others.

Expenditure.—Direct expenditure on public instruction increased by Rs. 12·6 lakhs to Rs. 329·2 lakhs, and indirect expenditure by about Rs. 2·9 lakhs to Rs. 46·8 lakhs. The expenditure on public instruction thus amounted to Rs. 3,76,01,839 and was met from the following sources :—

	Amount	Percentage
	Rs.	
Government funds	1,55,51,740	41·4
Board funds	70,28,396	18·7
Fees	95,93,470	25·5
Other sources	54,28,233	14·4
Total ..	3,76,01,839	100·0

Primary schools absorbed over Rs. 177 lakhs, exclusive of expenditure on inspection, construction and repairs. Expenditure on buildings in recognised institutions amounted to Rs. 12·5 lakhs.

University.—The number of candidates for the Matriculation examination increased by 4,570 to 22,407 of whom 5,597 or 25·0 per cent. passed. Of the 2,026 candidates who appeared for the Intermediate examination in Arts, 1,216 or 60·0 per cent. passed. The number of successful candidates at the B.A. examination held in October 1936, and in April 1937, was 1,155 as against 1,089 in the preceding year. In examinations for Professional degrees, excluding the Medical examinations,

there were 742 successful candidates. The total expenditure of the University as distinct from the individual colleges, but including the two departments of the University itself was over Rs. 14·4 lakhs.

Arts Colleges.—The number of students in the 14 Arts colleges (excluding the University School of Economics and Sociology) decreased by 225 to 9,864 of whom 1,048 were women as against 983 in the preceding year. The total expenditure on all the Arts colleges was about Rs. 22·3 lakhs.

Professional Colleges.—The total number of students in Professional colleges increased by 162 to 3,347 of whom 1,036 were studying Law, 1,244 Medicine, 216 Engineering, 195 Agriculture, 510 Commerce, 45 Chemical Technology and 101 were reading for the B.T. degree.

Education in Art.—There were 632 students in the Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay, of whom 114 attended the Reay Art Workshops. Both the schools of Drawing and Design at Ahmedabad and Surat had 30 students on their rolls.

Technical and Industrial Education.—The number of these schools increased by 11 to 59 and the pupils in them by 393 to 3,620. The expenditure increased by Rs. 87,695 to Rs. 6,19,546.

Secondary Education.—The number of secondary schools increased by 24 to 639 and the pupils in them by 2,440 to 127,087. The following table gives separate details of high and middle schools :—

		Number of schools	Number of pupils
High schools for	Boys	237	85,729
	Girls	65	17,589
Middle schools for	Boys	298	19,965
	Girls	39	3,804
	Total ..	639	127,087

The expenditure on secondary schools increased by Rs. 3·5 lakhs to Rs. 82·9 lakhs.

Primary Schools.—The number of primary schools for boys increased by 255 to 11,423 and the number of pupils in them by 33,898 to 964,082. The number of primary schools for girls also increased by 15 to 1,478 and the number of pupils

(boys and girls) in them by 7,816 to 176,217. The total number of girls under instruction in primary schools for boys and girls was 287,061, an increase of 16,530. The following table gives details of primary schools by management :—

	Schools	Pupils
Government	31	4,511
District Local Board	9,203	671,701
Municipal	1,581	332,248
Aided	1,808	119,178
Unaided	278	12,661
Total ..	12,901	1,140.299

The total direct expenditure on primary schools was Rs. 177·3 lakhs as against Rs. 172·9 lakhs in 1935-36. Of the total expenditure, Rs. 97·6 lakhs was met from Government funds, Rs. 12·6 lakhs from District Local Board funds, Rs. 45·1 lakhs from Municipal funds, Rs. 6·9 lakhs from fees, and Rs. 15·1 lakhs from other sources.

There were 180 night schools attended by 6,299 pupils.

Training Institutions.—There were 15 training institutions for men and 17 for women with 1,014 and 917 students, respectively. Of the 32 training institutions, 13 with 1,085 students were under public management and 19 with 846 students were under private management.

Muhammadans.—The total number of Muhammadans under instruction in recognised institutions increased by 2,883 to 168,320, of whom 45,263 were girls. The number of Muhammadans in Arts colleges decreased by 14 to 488 and that in Professional colleges by 15 to 172. In secondary schools the number of pupils also decreased by 82 to 10,202. In primary schools the number increased by 2,737 to 154,777 and in special schools by 257 to 2,681.

Intermediate and Backward Hindus.—The following table gives the number of pupils under instruction in recognised institutions :—

	1935-36	1936-37
Intermediate—		
Marathas	183,839	193,659
Cultivating classes (Kunbis, Kolis, etc.) ..	213,322	221,903
Artisans	102,112	104,381
Lingayats	81,264	84,564
Total ..	580,537	604,507

	1935-36	1936-37
Backward—		
Scheduled Classes	75,792	80,486
Aboriginal and Hill Tribes	26,276	29,105
Other Backward Classes	33,928	35,093
Total ..	135,996	144,684

Industrial Schools.—Of the three certified schools, the one at Yeravda (Poona) with 227 pupils is maintained by Government, while the David Sassoon Industrial School, Bombay, with 394 pupils is under the control of a Committee of Management, and the Willingdon Boys Home, Bombay, with 67 pupils is managed by the Salvation Army Mission.

YERAVDA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

Steady improvement in educational methods and a high standard of efficiency in work and discipline were consistently maintained throughout the year. With the installation of electric lights, the school wears a cheerful and lively appearance and it is possible now to keep the boys out on the grounds for games long after the fall of darkness. The old gloomy cells and barracks have been mostly replaced by airy and well-lit dormitories.

The year opened with 218 boys on the roll. During the year 82 boys were admitted and 69 released, two died in hospital and two were transferred to other institutions, leaving 227 on the roll at the end of the year. Of these 143 were Hindus, 74 Muslims, 9 Christians, and one Jew, and their ages on admission ranged between 8 and 15 years. Literary, moral and social, as well as progressive industrial and agricultural training was imparted to the inmates.

Ten boys were on license at the commencement of the year and 49 were released on license during the year. Of these 24 finished their period of license satisfactory.

Deducting the actual receipts of Rs. 3,846, the net cost to Government amounted to Rs. 37,497. The net average cost per boy was Rs. 171.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

The total number of publications registered during the year increased by 400 to 3,440—2,018 books and 1,422 periodicals. Of the books published 234 were in English, 624 in Gujarati,

664 in Marathi, 98 in Kanarese, 23 in Urdu, 40 in Hindi, 49 in classical languages, seven in other dialects and 279 in more than one language.

Of the periodicals 207 were in English, 602 in Gujarati, 413 in Marathi, two in Kanarese, 15 in Urdu, 46 in Hindi, one in classical language and 136 in more than one language.

Of the total number of publications the "Miscellaneous" works numbered 1,610, while "Religion", "Language" and "Poetry" numbered 328, 312 and 259, respectively.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, BOMBAY

In spite of attempts made to enlist the support of the reading public, there was a decrease in the membership of the Society. The resident members decreased from 376 to 366 and non-resident members from 141 to 138.

The issues of books and periodicals during the year amounted to 69,722, of which 20,199 were old books, 14,697 new books and 34,826 periodicals. The largest issue—17,849—was under fiction, biography and politics coming next in order with 2,363 and 2,347, respectively. The total number of volumes added was 1,567, of which 1,077 were purchased and 490 presented. Five lectures were delivered before the Society and were largely attended.

During the year 118 coins were added to the coin cabinet of the Society. The Society also received 2,110 treasure trove coins for examination during the year. The expenditure of the Society amounted to about Rs. 32,500.

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, BOMBAY

The museum was kept open for 311 days as in the previous year. The total number of visitors was 965,461 and the daily average 3,145 against 1,119,062 and 3,598, respectively, in the previous year. The fall in the number of visitors was due to the outbreak of communal riots in the city. Photographs in metal of 14 historic buildings in India were procured and exhibited. Three round dishes in silver and copper inlay, known as Naga work from Tanjore, were added to the collection. The labelling of specimens received special attention. Labels in English as well as in the principal vernaculars were attached to specimens as desired by the Corporation.

PRINCE OF WALES MUSEUM OF WESTERN INDIA, BOMBAY

A census taken for a week during the year showed that as in the previous year the number of visitors averaged over 2,000 a day on the free days despite the fact that certain Art Galleries, on account of repairs, and practically all of the Natural History galleries, due to complete reorganisation of the Section, remained closed to the public. The popularity of the Museum is increasing.

The work of installing and exhibiting the collections in the Museum extension is being expedited.

The most outstanding addition during the year was the collection of antiquities excavated at Mohenjo-Daro in Sind. The Government of Bombay made over their share of the antiquities to the Museum.

CHAPTER XI

MISCELLANEOUS

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION

THE Church Establishments maintained by the State in the Presidency are those of the Church of India and the Established Church of Scotland. Certain allowances are also granted by Government to the Roman Catholic Church and the Wesleyan Church for ministrations to troops, etc.

THE CHURCH OF INDIA

Since 1837 Bombay has been a separate diocese. The diocese includes the territories within the limits of the Bombay Presidency except the districts of Nasik, East Khandesh, West Khandesh and Ahmednagar. These districts were removed in 1929 from the spiritual jurisdiction of the Bishop of Bombay, and a separate diocese of Nasik was constituted, though the two Chaplaincies of Deolali and Ahmednagar are still served by Chaplains on the Bombay cadre, and all matters connected with Government Churches and Cemeteries and Ecclesiastical Establishments in these districts continue to be administered by the Bishop and Archdeacon of Bombay. The diocese of Bombay also includes Aden and the Western India States, the Gujarat States, Baroda, Kolhapur and the Deccan States, the Mewar Hilly Tracts in the State of Udaipur and the States of Dungarpur and Sirohi in Rajputana. Sind was transferred to the diocese of Lahore in 1877.

The Right Reverend R. D. Acland, Bishop of Bombay, was on leave from 20th June 1936 to 12th October 1936 during which time the Venerable W. Ashley-Brown, Archdeacon, who was on duty throughout the year, acted as Bishop's Commissary. The Reverend M. G. Scott, Domestic Chaplain, was on duty till 5th October 1936 when he was relieved by the Reverend A. E. Elliot. The latter then continued in the post till the end of the year.

The year opened with eleven Chaplains on duty and three on leave. Two Chaplains of the Bombay establishment were stationed at Deolali and Ahmednagar in the Nasik Diocese. All the Churches and Cemeteries inspected by the Bishop were

in good repair. The Bishop held 25 confirmations during the year, the number of persons confirmed being 452. One person was ordained Priest and one Deacon.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

The Church of Scotland in this Presidency was placed on its present basis in 1837 and the sanctioned number of Chaplains on the Bombay cadre of the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment, Church of Scotland, is two.

There are at present five Presbyterian Churches and several other buildings used for Divine service scattered throughout the Presidency of Bombay.

The Rev. L. McLean continued as Officiating Presidency Senior Chaplain throughout the year.

The other places outside Bombay, where Government or non-Government Chaplains were stationed, were Poona and Kirkee, Karachi, Belgaum, Mhow, Nasirabad, Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Quetta and Kamptée.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING

Stationery Branch.—The opening balance of stores in the Stationery Branch was Rs. 1·02 lakhs. During the year under report stores of the value of Rs. 7·84 lakhs were received. The cost of issues to Government presses and Government Departments amounted to Rs. 2·56 lakhs and Rs. 3·27 lakhs respectively. Stores worth Rs. 1·76 lakhs were supplied to the officers of the Sind Government, as the supply to that Government was continued till the end of the year. The total cost of issues was Rs. 7·84 lakhs as against Rs. 6·48 lakhs in the previous year, the reasons for the excess in issues being creation of several new offices, supply of a large number of additional typewriters and printing of a large number of forms in connection with famine and elections. The closing balance was Rs. 96,000.

Publication Branch.—The total receipts of this branch were Rs. 73,674 as against Rs. 72,640 in the previous year. The value of maps supplied was Rs. 4,542.

Government Central Press.—The numerical strength of the Press establishment, including piece and task workers, was 558 on 31st March 1937 as compared with 552 on the corresponding day of the previous year. There was a remarkable increase in outturn of hand composition, mono, lino, hand presses and machines. The outturn of the rubber

stamps and type foundry also increased considerably, the latter being due to heavy demand from the Sind Government. The outturn on the whole showed an increase of 21 per cent. over that of the previous year, while the manufacturing cost increased only by 5·7 per cent. The receipts for work done on payment amounted to Rs. 91,508 as against Rs. 68,367 in the previous year. The total expenditure of the Press was Rs. 7·71 lakhs as against Rs. 7·17 lakhs in the year before.

Yeravda Prison Press.—The sanctioned strength of the paid establishment was reduced from 49 to 46, excluding the post of the temporary compositor for Government House work during the Poona season. The working strength of convicts at the close of the year was 173 as against 154 in the preceding year. There was an increase of about 8 per cent. in the outturn as a whole, while the increase in the total cost of production was only one per cent. The receipts during the year, including the recovery of ·73 lakh on account of supplies to Sind, amounted to Rs. 1·70 lakhs as against Rs. ·86 lakh in the preceding year. The total expenditure of the Press was Rs. 2·20 lakhs as against Rs. 2·27 lakhs in the previous year.

Government Photo Zinco Press, Poona.—The work turned out in the printing branch during the year was 1,118,793 machine pulls costing about Rs. 34,000 and 65,558 hand pulls costing about Rs. 20,000. Other branches turned out work costing about Rs. 83,000. The total cost of work done in the Press was Rs. 1·36 lakhs. The total amount realized from private work done in the Press was Rs. 67,000.

BOMBAY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Back Bay Reclamation Scheme.—The total expenditure on works and repairs incurred on the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme amounted to Rs. 12·46 lakhs, which includes a sum of Rs. 5·87 lakhs representing the price of the B. B & C. I. Railway land south of the Church Gate station debited to the scheme. About 13½ lakhs cubic feet of suitable building debris, obtained free of charge, was deposited in Block No. VII at a cost of about Rs. 5,000. The Cuffe Parade Extension was completed at a total cost of Rs. 1·09 lakhs. The work of providing a sewerage scheme with two ejector stations in Blocks I and II was nearly completed, the total expenditure being Rs. 2·09 lakhs. The Churchgate Street Extension and certain other lengths of roads in Block No. II and the 40′ wide Marine Drive including a footpath 10′ wide on the

west side from the extension of Churchgate Street to Chowpatty alongside of the sea wall were completed and handed over to the Bombay Municipality. Subsidiary works in connection with the construction of the Marine Drive to its full width in Blocks I and II were in progress. Sanitation and anti-malarial measures were carried out by the Bombay Municipality on behalf of Government at a cost of Rs. 4,775.

Industrial Housing Scheme.—Out of 16,559 rooms and shops in the 207 chawls, 8,563 rooms and shops were occupied at the close of the year 1936-37, showing an increase of 78 rooms and shops in the number occupied. The scale of rents for single roomed tenements at the four centres remained unchanged. The number of shops occupied at various centres was Naigaum 43, DeLisle Road 16, Worli 66, and Sewri 25. There was a slight improvement at centres other than Sewri, where the number of shops occupied was the same as at the close of the year before. Five vacant chawls at Sewri were opened for occupation and a chawl at Naigaum was given to the Police.

The total collection on account of rent of chawls amounted to Rs. 5,94,793. The rent collected amounted to 98·1 per cent. of the demand which was an improvement on the 1935-36 figure (97·8 per cent.) During the year under report 717 tenants absconded leaving Rs. 5,409 of rent unpaid as compared with 685 absconders involving Rs. 5,937 in 1935-36. The total amount written off was Rs. 2,396 as against Rs. 5,371 in the preceding year. The total arrears on March 31st were Rs. 14,646 as compared with Rs. 13,743 in the previous year.

The total population of the Development Department chawls was 42,815 approximately, while deaths recorded were 873, giving a death rate of 20 per thousand. During the previous year the death rate was 22 per thousand. There are a number of amenities provided for the residents of the chawls. Certain charitable institutions, such as the Bombay Presidency Infant Welfare Society and the Baby and Health Week Association are providing medical relief to the Development Department tenants through maternity homes and creches and the Naigaum Social Service Centre and the Young Men's Christian Association are carrying on social welfare work for the tenants and their women and children. The Bombay Municipality has schools at all the four centres and also a dispensary at Worli.

Residential Suburban Schemes.—During the financial year ended 31st March 1937 satisfactory progress was made with disposal of plots in the late Development Department

Suburban Residential Schemes. Twenty-four plots measuring 23,448 square yards and worth Rs. 98,448 were sold in Suburban Schemes No. III (Chembur Garden Suburb), No. VII-(Khar Model Suburb) and No. XVIII-(Kirol-North). Purchasers of 13 plots out of the above took advantage of the State-aided Scheme. The rest preferred cash payment. The state-aided building scheme continued to be popular and was a factor in the continued disposal of land. Under the scheme loans amounting to Rs. 68,405 were sanctioned for land and building during the year.

TOWN PLANNING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT

During the year under report, a new branch Office of this Department was opened in Bombay and the work of land acquisition in Bombay City and town planning and land acquisition in the Bombay Suburban District was transferred to that Office.

Three final schemes containing an area of about 115 acres, viz., Godhra No. I, Bandra No. IV and Ghatkopar No. II (Varied), were before Government awaiting sanction. None of these were finally sanctioned during the year under report, and the number of finally sanctioned town planning schemes thus remains unaltered, viz., 39 Schemes containing an area of about 9,500 acres. Progress on arbitration proceedings was made in respect of town planning schemes, Ahmedabad No. III (Ellis Bridge) and Poona No. II. The award of the arbitrator in respect of town planning scheme Bandra No. III was published. Sanction to the draft schemes and appointment of arbitrator is awaited in respect of town planning schemes, Ahmedabad No. V (City Wall Improvement) and Bandra No. VI. The appointment of an arbitrator in the town planning scheme Santa Cruz No. V is awaited. Draft schemes, Poona No. I (Varied), Poona No. III, and Sholapur No. III have been published, and sanction to the making of the draft varied schemes in respect of Amalner No. I and Bagalkot No. I is awaited.

During the year under report, plans were prepared for layouts and improvement or extension of towns containing nearly 230 acres of land at Poona (Yeravda), Nasik, Bombay, Lasalgaon, Malegaon, Amalner, Sholapur, Deolali, Manmad, Kalwan Budruk (Nasik District), Dhulia, etc. Layouts of areas aggregating 83 acres in the suburbs of Ahmedabad were scrutinised on behalf of Revenue Department and Notified

Area Committees. Layout of land admeasuring 8·3 acres for a Housing Society in town planning scheme Andheri No. VI was scrutinised.

During the year under report valuations of properties to the extent of Rs. 129 lakhs were made for the information of Government, Collectors and Municipal or other semi-public bodies. Valuations to the extent of about Rs. 21 lakhs were made under the Bombay Municipal Boroughs Act for rating purposes.

Preliminary enquiries, fixing of zones and rates of non-agricultural assessment in respect of towns and villages in Surat and Thana districts were completed during the year under report.

The Special Land Acquisition Officers of this Department stationed at Poona, Ahmedabad and Bombay declared awards to the extent of Rs. 4·10 lakhs in respect of 194 properties and awards of other Land Acquisition Officers to the extent of Rs. 3·38 lakhs were scrutinised by this Department. During the year 157 cases of an aggregate value of about Rs. 5·93 lakhs for notification under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act were scrutinised and settled.

MILITARY

Auxiliary Force (India) and Indian Territorial Force

Bombay District.—Considerable improvement in the strength of units took place during the year. Although a number of officers resigned their commissions or were transferred from Bombay, all units were up to strength in officers. With the exception of the Bombay Light Patrol all units were up to strength in other ranks. This was the first time for a number of years that the Bombay Battalion and No. 3 (Bombay) Fortress Company were up to strength and was accomplished in spite of a certain amount of weeding out. The result of these changes is that a better type of man is now joining the units. The men enlisted in the I. T. F. work mainly in the Municipality, Customs, Government Offices, Banks, Railway Companies and various trading companies. No man is enlisted unless he can speak English and has passed the Matriculation or Sixth Standard School Examination. The Anglo-Indians in the Auxiliary Force are drawn from similar sources. Enlistment from the Customs has unfortunately fallen off, whereas a few years ago a whole company of the Bombay Battalion came from the Bombay Customs, there are now only a few men in the Battalion from that source.

The important roles which these units play in the defence of Bombay is not generally known, and may be of interest. The Bombay Light Patrol consists of two troops of cavalry and eight Motor Troops. It is available to assist the Civil power at all times and would form a mobile reserve if an enemy should ever try to land in the neighbourhood of Bombay in time of war. The mobility of this unit gives it an importance in excess of its numerical strength. No. 10 (Bombay) Battery, R. A., mans the heavy guns at Colaba while No. 3 (Bombay) Fortress Company, R. E., is responsible for the searchlights. Both these units act in close co-operation with the Regular Artillery and play a very important part in the defence of Bombay, of which they are justly proud. In order that their members shall be able to carry on with their civil employment throughout a war, these units have been given a large establishment so that each man would only be required for military duties once every three or four days. The role of the Bombay Battalion has also been made more interesting during the year. This Battalion now contains Armoured Cars and Machine Guns as well as Riflemen and thus provides interesting work for men with mechanical aptitude. In addition, men with seafaring inclinations are catered for in the Examination Platoon which would be used in war to escort the Examining Officer who visits all ships before they are allowed to enter the Harbour, and to guard such ships as he thinks necessary. The Railway Battalions are employed on the defence of their own lines. The 2nd (Bombay Presidency) Urban Infantry, I. T. F., provides an outlet for those Indians who wish to play a part in the defence of their country and assists in the defence of Bombay in war.

The "Coronation Contingent".—All A. F. (I) and I. T. F. units provided representatives with the Contingent which was despatched from India in a special transport to represent the armed forces of India at the Coronation of His Majesty King George the Sixth. While they were in England they were encamped at Hampton Court and given an opportunity of seeing many of the principal sights of the country.

The Auxiliary Force also plays its part on ceremonial occasions in Bombay. During the change over of Governors, the Bombay Light Patrol provided the mounted escort while guards of honour were provided by the Bombay Battalion, and 1st Battalion, the G. I. P. Railway Regiment.

Shooting.—The 1st Battalion, G. I. P. Railway Regiment, have had an extremely successful year, and have won the Madras

Guards Diamond Jubilee Shield and 8 other trophies. The 2nd (Bombay Presidency) Urban Infantry, I. T. F., obtained first and second places in the A. R. A. of India Match for Urban Infantry Battalions.

There are two Cadet units; one attached to the Bombay Contingent with Headquarters in Bombay and one attached to the 1st Battalion, the G. I. P. Railway Regiment, with Headquarters at Deolali. Both these units provided camps during the winter which were very popular with the Cadets. It is hoped that the Cadets who belong to these units will subsequently join Auxiliary Force Units when they leave school.

The Poona Contingent A. F. (I) consists of the 15th (Kirkee) Field Battery, R. A., A. F. (I), and The Poona Rifles, A. F. (I). The latter consists of four platoons. The Battery was at full strength, but the Poona Rifles, A. F. (I) had one or two vacancies, owing to some of the members having taken employment out of the Station.

Two camps were held at Chinchvad and at headquarters during February 1937. More than 90 per cent. attended Camp and showed great keenness in their work.

11th Battalion, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry.—The Battalion was up to full strength having enlisted 179 recruits during 1937, but it is anticipated that 150 recruits will be required during the ensuing year to replace men whose terms of service expire on completion of current training. Training was carried out at such periods as to enable agricultural classes to return to their farms in time for the harvesting period.

1st (Bombay) Battalion, University Training Corps.—The new training year started at the end of June 1937. The number of new Cadets enrolled was 337. All Cadets both old and new were medically examined under arrangements made by the University authorities. The annual camp was held at Aundh from 21st December 1936 to 4th January 1937. The Battalion was inspected in camp by Brigadier T. S. Riddell-Webster, D.S.O., Commanding the Poona Brigade. The Battalion has developed a very good spirit of *esprit de corps* both in work and games. This is largely due to the support received from the University and particularly from the Principals of Colleges who provide units for the Battalion.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Bombay Society.—During the year 1936 the Agents of the Society in Bombay City prosecuted 15,278 cases of cruelty

to animals. In 13,925 cases fines were inflicted, in 121 cases the offenders were fined and in default sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, in 639 cases the accused were warned and discharged and in 593 cases the accused were acquitted. The number of animals sent by the Magistrates to the Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals for treatment was 542 while that of animals suffering from incurable diseases sent from the Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals to the Pinjrapole at Bombay was 108. There were 434 prosecutions at Bandra Court and fines were inflicted in 383 cases. In 21 cases the accused were warned and discharged and in 30 cases the accused were acquitted. The amount of fines levied in cruelty cases prosecuted by the Society's Agents is given to the Society by way of a grant-in-aid after deducting ten per cent. for Government expenses. The amount thus received by the Society in 1936 by way of fines was Rs. 24,949.

ARCHÆOLOGY

Conservation.—After the separation of Sind, Bombay Presidency is left with 678 ancient protected monuments of which number as many as 277 were brought under repairs at a total cost of Rs. 1,24,873. While 248 monuments received only ordinary annual repairs, 29 required special measures for their conservation. The most important work of this kind carried out during the year related to that rare example of massive architecture the Gol Gumbad at Bijapur. This seventeenth century monument had developed numerous cracks all over the outer and inner surface of its gigantic dome which have been scientifically treated at a cost of Rs. 68,565. Other monuments that received noteworthy preservative attention are Asar Mahal and Bhui Masjid at Bijapur, Narayan Dev Temple at Bevoor, 12 miles east of Bagalkot in the Bijapur District, Pandu Lena Caves (150 B.C.) at Pathardi in Nasik District, Shiva temple at Harischandragad in Ahmednagar District, the Stepped Well at Tavlai in West Khandesh, the Buddhist Caves at Bhedsa in Poona District and Shanwar Wada in Poona City; Ambernath temple at Kalyan in Thana District; Jami Masjid at Dabhol in Ratnagiri District; Bhadar Gate at Ahmedabad, Sikandar Shah's Rauza at Prantij in Ahmedabad District; Mahadeva temple at Bavka and Makai Kothar or Maize granary as well as Panch Mahuda-Ki Masjid both at Pavagadh in the Kaira and Panch Mahals District.

Exploration.—A preliminary survey of sites at Nala Sopara was carried out with a view to spotting such of them as might repay archæological excavation.

Epigraphy.—Seventy-one ancient inscriptions were copied. Of these 63 are in Persian and Arabic. These are being studied for ultimate publication. During the year a Monograph on the Persian and Arabic inscriptions of Bijapur compiled by Dr. M. Nazim was published by the Archæological Department of the Government of India.

BACKWARD CLASSES

Steady progress was maintained in the education of backward classes. The total number of scheduled class pupils attending primary schools, exclusive of Government schools, increased from 68,941 in 1934–35 to 73,321 in 1935–36, while the number of scheduled class teachers in such schools increased from 910 to 979. During the same period the number of scheduled class pupils attending common primary schools increased from 53,806 to 58,609, while the number of scheduled class teachers in such schools increased from 520 to 601. The number of separate scheduled class schools decreased from 372 in 1934–35 to 356 in 1935–36, as it is the policy of Government to reduce the number of separate schools. The six primary night schools which were opened at Sholapur last year by the Backward Class District Committee, Sholapur, continued to do good work. They imparted elementary vernacular instruction to depressed class adults, and about 250 students took advantage of them. The Municipal Borough, Sholapur, continued to give a monthly grant of Rs. 25 for each school. Government have repeatedly laid down that no differential treatment with regard to admission and sitting of Scheduled Class children in common schools should be allowed. Gujarat however still lags behind the rest of the Presidency in this matter. In some cases village schools are held in temples and it is the duty of the school boards to shift such schools to other non-contentious buildings.

Exemption of all backward class pupils from payment of room rent in Government hostels, when certified to be poor by the Head Master of the school concerned, continued during the year. They are also admitted free in Government secondary schools. Monetary help was also given to deserving backward class pupils studying in secondary schools and colleges in the shape of special scholarships, hostel stipends, and lump sums for payment of university examination fees, college fees, etc. These payments were distinct from the special scholarships awarded by the Educational Department.

Out of 762 teachers admitted in training colleges, 113 belonged to backward classes including 70 of the Scheduled Class.

The Government Depressed Class Hostel at Poona continued to work satisfactorily. Boys from all Marathi speaking districts receive the benefit of this hostel. The system of treating the food charges of the boys in this hostel as stipends was abolished during the year as it was found to be operating unfairly in favour of boys having free studentships, as against those not having them. It was then possible to increase the number of inmates by ten within the same budget. Grants-in-aid aggregating Rs. 9,000 were given to seventeen depressed class hostels in various districts of the Presidency, two of which were opened during the year.

Government have prescribed percentages for recruitment to Government service and, in order to help recruitment, registers of backward class candidates seeking employment are maintained in the office of the Backward Class Officer and Assistant Backward Class Officers. Positions were secured for 94 backward class candidates through the agency of this Department during the year.

Lands have been developed in various districts and given to the backward classes for building houses thereon. Applications for grants of lands for cultivation were forwarded to the Collectors concerned.

In accordance with Government orders the Local Boards are required to put up notice boards at public wells stating that the latter are intended for the use of all sections of the community irrespective of caste or creed. An allotment of Rs. 10,000 was placed at the disposal of the Commissioners, Central and Southern Divisions, in equal halves for improvement of water supply for the scheduled classes.

Complaints of all sorts from backward classes were received by the Backward Class Officer and suitable measures were taken to remedy them wherever necessary.

Attempts were made to work the Devadasis Protection Act, 1934. This evil practice of dedication is most prevalent in the Karnatak, particularly in the Belgaum, Dharwar and Bijapur districts. The non-official Backward Class District Committees in these districts showed interest in instituting prosecutions under the Act; and the District Magistrate, Belgaum, in which district the offences most often take place, has issued instructions to the Magistrates under him to accept complaints lodged by these Committees. They were exempted from depositing "Bhatta" and from payment of process fees.

Propaganda work directed towards the amelioration of the condition of the Backward Classes was carried on as far as possible by members of this Department when on tour, by way of advising them to abandon carrion eating, to give up dirty habits, to avoid drunkenness, and to abolish early marriages, etc.

The total expenditure of the Department was over Rs. 31,600 of which nearly Rs. 9,000 were spent as grant-in-aid to depressed class hostels and Rs. 2,300 as scholarships.

APPENDIX I

List of Official Reports used in the compilation of this Volume

PART II

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

Annual Reports of the Department of Land Records and of the Collector and Talukdari Settlement Officer, Ahmedabad, for the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER II

LAW AND JUSTICE

Reports on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice and the Registration Department for the year 1936, Annual Report on the working of the Indian Companies Act, 1913, and Proceedings of the Bombay Legislative Council for the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER III

POLICE AND CRIME

Annual Police Reports of the Bombay Presidency and of the Bombay City, Administration Reports on Government Workhouses and of the Jail Department, the Report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act and Administration Report of the Borstal School, Dharwar, and the Bombay Presidency Probation and After-care Association for the year 1936.

CHAPTER IV

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS

The Season and Crop Report and the Report of the Department of Agriculture, Land Revenue Administration Report, Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Societies, Annual Report on Forests, Note on the Weather and Annual Report of the Empress and Bund Gardens, Poona, for the year 1936-37, and Notes on Prices, Labour and Wages.

CHAPTER V

TRADE AND COMMERCE

Annual Report of the Department of Industries for the year 1936-37, Annual Factory Report, including a Note on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, and Annual Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act for the year 1936, Report on the Administration of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, and Annual Report on the Sea-borne Trade of the Bombay Presidency for the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER VI

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Administration Report of the Public Works Department and Irrigation Administration Report for the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER VII

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL RELIEF

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for the Government of Bombay, Annual Report on Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries, Annual Report of the Haffkine Institute, Report on Mental Hospitals, Annual Report of the Chemical Analyser to Government, Bombay, and Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Emigration Act for the year 1936, Annual Administration Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, for the year 1936-37 and Annual Reports of the Acworth Leper Home, Matunga, the Kondhwa Leper Hospital, Poona, and the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (Indian Council), for the year 1936.

CHAPTER VIII

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Report on Municipal Taxation and Expenditure for the Bombay Presidency, Administration Report of the Municial Commissioner for the City of Bombay, Annual Report on the administration of Local Boards in the Bombay Presidency and Annual Report on Port Trust, Bombay, for the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER IX

COLLECTION OF REVENUE AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

Accounts for the year 1936-37, Land Revenue Administration Report, Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, and Administration Report of the Bombay Collectorate for the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER X

INSTRUCTION

Reports of the Director of Public Instruction and the Industrial School at Yeravda for the year 1936-37, the Report of the Royal Asiatic Society (Bombay Branch) for the year 1936, Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay, and Annual Report of the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India, Bombay, for the year 1936-37.

CHAPTER XI

MISCELLANEOUS

Administration Reports of the Diocese of Bombay, of the Church of Scotland, Bombay Presidency, of the Printing, Stationery and Publication Department and the Government Photozincographic Press, Poona. Annual Reports on the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme and Residential Suburban Schemes for the year 1936-37, Report on the Working of the Consulting Surveyor's Department, Annual Report of the Bombay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the year 1936, Report of the Archæological Survey of India, Western Circle, for the year 1936-37 and the Report on the working of the Backward Class Department for the year 1936.

APPENDIX II

1936-37

GOVERNOR

His Excellency the Right Honourable Michael Herbert Rudolf Knatchbull, Lord Brabourne, G.C.I.E., M.C. (Took his seat, 9th December 1933.) (On leave from 31st May 1936 to 29th September 1936.)

His Excellency the Honourable Sir Robert Duncan Bell, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Officiating Governor. (From 31st May 1936 to 29th September 1936.)

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Robert Duncan Bell, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. (Took his seat, 6th January 1933.)	Home and General Member and Vice-President of Council.
The Honourable Sir Charles William Aldis Turner, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. (Temporary.) (From 31st May 1936 to 29th September 1936.)	Home and General Member.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Sir Dhanjishah Bomanji Cooper. (Took his seat, 23rd June 1934.)	Revenue and Finance Member.

MINISTERS

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir Siddappa Totappa Kambli. (Took his seat, 10th November 1930.)	Education.
The Honourable Sir Ali Mahomed Khan Dehlavi. (Took his seat, 1st April 1936.)	Local Self-Government.

BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

The Honourable Mr. Hoosenally M. Rahimtoola.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Rao Bahadur N. E. Navle, B.A., LL.B.

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